真・天地無用！ 魎皇鬼外伝

天地無用！ GXP3

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SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
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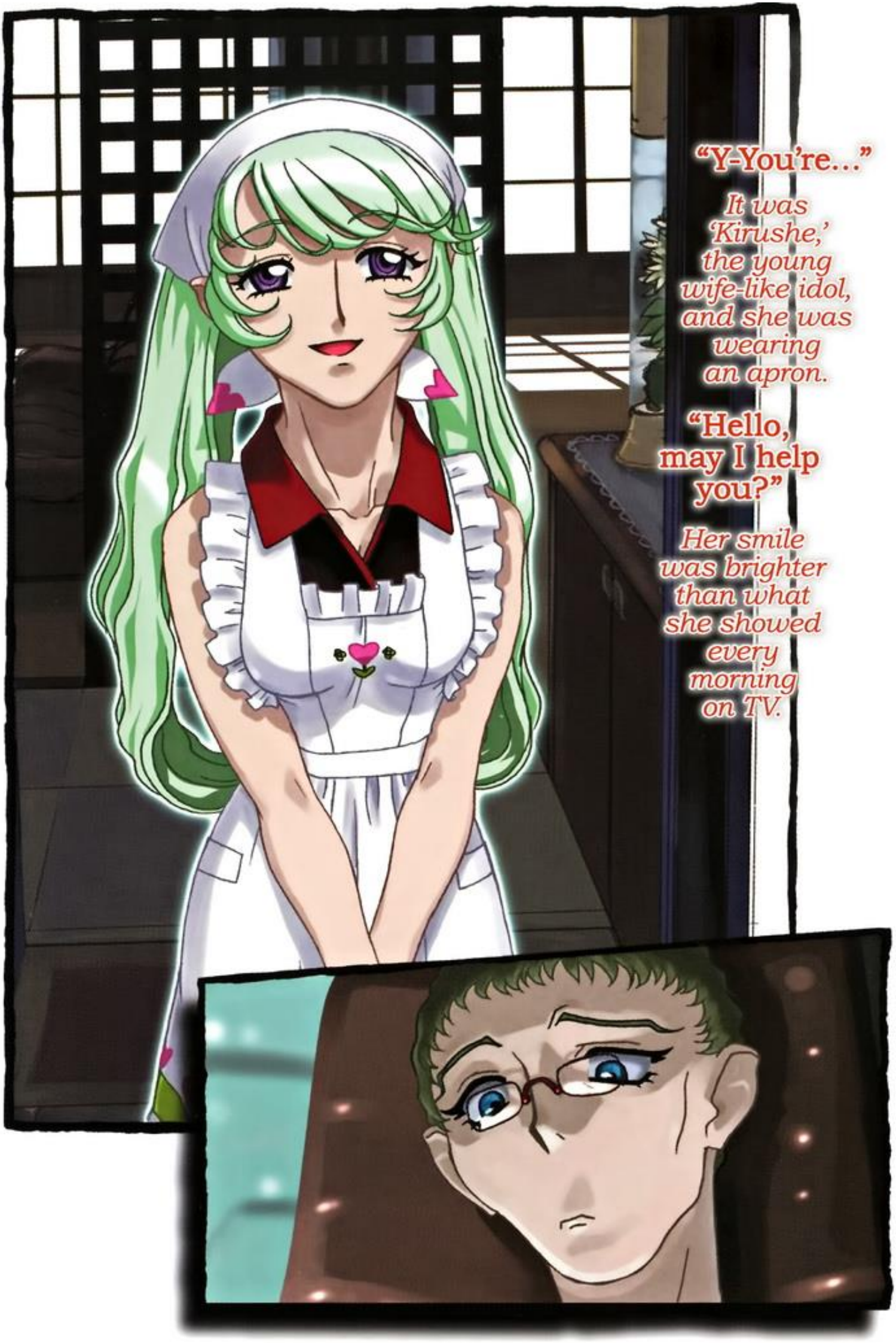
"Seina-chan. ♥"
The speaker had a mellow but strong voice and a warm grip. In an instant, it dispersed and purified the venomous and deep mist that had been so threatening before.
"Mitoto-san!"
The savior arrived. The person who grabbed Seina's hand was Mitoto, whose big smile was as bright as the sun.
Caution: This is Seina's imagination.


"Y-You're..."
It was 'Kirushe,' the young wife-like idol, and she was wearing an apron.
"Hello, may I help you?"
Her smile was brighter than what she showed every morning on TV.

True Tenchi Muyo! Ryo-Ohki Side Story

Tenchi Muyo! GXP3

Masaki Kajishima

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Chapter One: Earth/Masaki Family

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TENCHI MUYO! GXP 3
"...Good morning... Ryo-chan."
Sasami was still sleepy, and she said good morning with half-closed eyes.

Ryo-Ohki was the earliest riser in the Masaki household.

That morning, Ryo-Ohki woke up before dawn and transformed from a little girl into a Cabbit.

"~~~~~~~~!"

And after a nice big stretch of her body.

"Meow♡"

She made a soft noise and rubbed her cheek against Sasami, who was sleeping next to her.

"… Good morning… Ryo-chan."

Sasami sleepily greeted her with her eyes half open. After seeing this, Ryo-Ohki quietly stepped out into the hallway, careful not to wake Aeka, who was sleeping in the futon next to her.

Her next stop was Tenchi's room.

She walked through a hallway that overlooked Ryoko's rafter and the open living room, then climbed the stairs at the end.

"Mya."

Ryo-Ohki slowly climbed the stairs leading to Tenchi's room, careful not to make any noise.

This wasn't because she wanted to avoid waking up Ryoko, who was sleeping on the beams of the atrium, or the other people in the house. The person she didn't want to wake up was Tenchi.

"…Mee…"

She used her molecular penetration ability to pass through the door.

If she wanted to go through a wall, she could have done it from anywhere, but that was the result of good discipline.

In order not to make any noise, she approached Tenchi's bed slowly, staying in the crouched position typical of felines stalking their prey. Otherwise, she would wake up Tenchi, who had keen senses.

Right, the reason why Ryo-Ohki didn't want to wake Tenchi up was she wanted to be the one to wake Tenchi up with hand …… or was it her foot? Well, anyway, it was to wake Tenchi up with it.

Tenchi, who had noticed Ryo-Ohki's feelings, tried to pretend to be asleep. However…

“This is good training, so don't go easy on her.”

There was nothing Washu could do about it - and in the end, Ryo-Ohki's losing streak continued to this day.

“…Mee…”

She crouched lower and got closer so she was underneath Tenchi’s bed. So far, Tenchi hadn't noticed. Ryo-Ohki was so happy that a big smile spread accross her face.

“Meeah!!”

Ryo-Ohki shouted as she jumped onto the bed.

“Meeah, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow, meow”

She bounced around happily on the bed, as if letting out all the emotions that have been building up inside her.

“Meeah, meow…. meow?”

However, as Ryo-Ohki's emotional release slowed down, she finally noticed that something felt strange about the bed.

“Mia??”

On this day, regardless of whether she won or lost, Tenchi was not even in the room, let alone in bed.

“Seina-kun?”

Tenchi, who was not in his room, had come with Washu to investigate soil improvement measures in a field where crops were not growing well.

“Yeah, I heard about it from Seto-dono.”

As they scanned the fields, Washu told him the story of how Seina arrived at the Academy.

“I see… I'm surprised he made it their safely…”

“Worried?” She glanced at Tenchi's expression.

“Considering Seina-kun's bad luck… I think, as Kiriko says, it would be safer for him to stay

on Earth.”

“I hear it's always been that way.”

“Yeah… I often got caught up in that too.” Tenchi smiled wryly, perhaps remembering the old days.

“Hahaha… that was a disaster.”

“If Seina-kun heard those words, he would look disgusted.”

“Huh?”

“Seina can be pronounced as 'Sainan'.“

“Oh, that's rude. But Seto-dono and Airi-dono both appreciate his talent.”

“Talent? The ability to attract pirates and criminals?” Tenchi gave Washu a reproachful look, which was unusual for him, because he agreed with Kiriko on this matter. “I can't believe how much Seina-kun has suffered because of that bad luck…”

“But, we can't just run away from it. This is also Seina-dono's will.”

“That's true, but in Seina-kun 's case, I think it's better to be a little safer.” Although a bit hesitant when told the truth, he pushed through with his opinion based on his emotions.

“Haha. You think of him as family, don’t you? Like your little brother?”

“…Maybe.”

He first met Seina over ten years ago. At that time, the only boy around Tenchi's age in Masaki Village was Kiriko's younger brother, Kai, so he played with Seina almost every day. As he entered the upper grades of elementary school, his circle of friends expanded and the opportunities to hang out together decreased little by little, but to Tenchi, Seina was an old childhood friend, just like Kai.

“I also saw how Seina was shunned by many people… I wanted to do something to help him. I don't think I would have been able to remain so calm in that situation.” Tenchi loved Seina's innocent, puppy-like cheerfulness.

“Hehe… I think Seto-dono and Airi-dono value Seina-dono more than they value his talent. And that's why they want to do something for him. The question then is whether to respect Seina-dono's wishes, or to ensure his safety…”

It was a question of whether they saw Seina as an adult or a child.

“……”

Realizing the implication of Washu's words, Tenchi remained silent and bowed his head in thought.

“But… I'm worried…”

(Oh my…Tenchi-dono♡)

As much as Tenchi wanted to do something for Seina, Washu couldn't stand seeing Tenchi's sad expression.

“Hehe… In that case, I'll do something about it. I might be able to get hold of some suitable materials.” That gleeful expression was what Washu showed when she was up to mischief.

“Eh? Ah, well…”

“Let me make him a good talisman, from the genius scientist Washu. Hehehehe.”

(Sorry… I think I stepped on a landmine.) Judging from her expression, Tenchi realized that there was no point in saying anything, so he apologised to Seina in his heart.

“Um… please, be gentle.”

“OK, OK. Perfect!”

“Meow! Meow! Meow!”

After stepping on more landmines, just as Seina's story reached a conclusion, Ryo-Ohki, who had been left behind by Tenchi, ran up crying.

Chapter Two: Morning: Shadow and Light

In the pitch black darkness and soundlessness of space, there was a single, huge, long table floating by itself. Around the table, about fifty figures, only the outlines of red glowing figures, were flickering like bonfires, and at the head of the table was a particularly huge figure who seemed to be President Da Ruma, and a solid image of the Deputy President. It looked something like King Enma and the demons of hell. **(TN: Enma is the lord of hell and the underworld in Buddhism. He is also called Yama.)**

Opposite Da Ruma stood an image of Ryoko Balta's adjutant, like a dead person about to be tried by King Enma.

This was the highest council of “Da Ruma”, the largest pirate guild within the Galactic Federation's territory.

“It's become a very lonely place.”

One of the silhouettes muttered. The voice echoed through the air, making it impossible to determine who was speaking.

“Demon Princess of Jurai! So that's why you've been secretly assembling your fleet.”

“But even so, the situation is extremely abnormal. Hundreds of ships being captured in such close proximity is simply not normal!”

“Reports say it's a new weapon from Jurai…”

“No, I mean it's a possibility.”

Megi Maia, the man in the image and second-in-command to Ryoko Balta, corrected him.

“You contacted the GP ship in question, but didn't even bother to capture it. Aren't you in cahoots with the enemy?”

As he spoke, a man appeared in the image.

“Tarrant! You’re late to the meeting!!”

The irritated words quickly turned to silence.

“Sorry. I'm having some trouble at work.” The handsome white-haired young man, called Tarrant, was covered in blood and had a cruel smile on his face.

“How dare you show up like that! You are in the presence of the Commander-in-Chief!”

“To us, this is like makeup, right?” Unfazed by the voices of irritation, Tarrant narrowed his eyes as if he was looking down on everyone there.

“That's what someone with no talent would say.”

The figures reacted to Tarrant's gesture with increasing irritation, for pirates need cargo and money, not lives.

“Be careful that it doesn't become your blood, like your father's.”

As soon as he heard those words, Tarrant's beautiful face distorted, and he glared menacingly at the shadows in the hall. His gaze contained madness that could shoot someone to death, and the place froze, and silence reigned.

“Tarrant-dono! Please retract your words about being a spy to the enemy.” Megi said, not at all intimidated by such madness.

“In that situation, even making contact with the GP ship would have been dangerous. And with Jurai's Demon Princess, it's entirely possible that this was a trap to have us capture them.”

“That's why we let it go without destroying it.”

“We have no intention of committing unnecessary slaughter!”

“Hmm, I see. Then I have something I need to report to you.” As he said this with a scornful smile, the image turned into a shadow.

Megi, of course, and even the other shadows whose voices and expressions they couldn't recognise, were relieved that Tarrant's intimidating presence had vanished.

“The topic of this meeting is regarding the recent mass arrests of our compatriots, but before that… I have just received a report that an incident similar to the one that occurred the other day has occurred within the Academy… Is that correct, Deputy President?”

“What?!” A murmur erupted in the hall again.

“That's right. We've lost contact with the agent we sent to the Academy.” The Deputy President acknowledged this while maintaining a calm expression.

“That's ridiculous! That's… no, but…”

“Fufufu, I see… so that means that the information network that the people here had independently set up has also been cut off.”

“This is no laughing matter! This is a matter of survival for Da Ruma.”

“Information about the Academy is always available. Why not just shut it down?”

This statement elicited hearty laughter from all around.

“What’s wrong?”

Everyone knew that this was coming from Tarrant, whose incredible madness had silenced everyone there earlier, but the laughter continued.

“That's foolishness born of ignorance. It's a very encouraging statement, but you can only say something like that because you don't know the true horror of the Academy.”

“Yes. What's more important are the details of this incident. Do you know anything?”

“The information we have received from Da Ruma Central Intelligence is not that different from what you have received. We received a report from the Academy that many spies and criminals had gathered in one city and were being arrested. The last time we had any contact with them was about five hours ago.”

“According to announcements from the outer ring cities, it is said that there is a large-scale system failure, so is this not the cause? In fact, entry and exit to the Academy has been significantly restricted, and the number of patrols has increased.”

“Heh. With the Academy's defenses down, now's the perfect time to strike them down.”

“An opportunity? To wage war against the Academy?”

“Even if we were to send in a large number of agents, we couldn't act carelessly if all of the infiltration routes are covered. First of all, can we be sure that this isn't a trap set by the other side?”

“Yes. All we need is information. There's no point in waging a war of aggression against the Academy… no, the Galactic Federation!”

“Hmph! You’re like a parasite.”

“Exactly! There's no point in killing the host, and we mustn't give them any reason to seriously consider eradicating us.”

“No matter how great our military might may be, we cannot wage war head-on against the Galactic Federation. Furthermore, making the Academy, Jurai, and Seniwa take us seriously would be far too risky! The enemy's reaction to having something stolen is completely different from that of having a person's life taken.”

Up until now, the GP had been conducting intensive investigations into pirates who killed excessively, or even for pleasure, and most of them had been discovered and sunk on the spot, using disguised ships and through tip-offs from fellow pirates. In other words, once they found them, it was easier to sink them than to capture them. For a pirate, an encounter between a small Imperial Ship and a disguised ship with enormous destructive power meant instant death.

“Most of us are doing this as a business, not with any ideological motives. This is not a 'holy war'. As such, it is best not to anger our business partners. For now, the GP believes that it is far more economical to compensate for the loss of individual components than to launch a wide-area, large-scale sweep to wipe us out.”

As the shadow said, there was actually an unspoken rule between pirates and the GP.

If the GP transport vessel judged that it was not possible to escape, it would detach the outer container unit and the pirates would not pursue any further. In return, the GP would not set any traps in the containers. Of course, this was only the case when the pirates were transporting normal outer containers.

In the case of special transports, such as the false transportation of important goods, such as Seina was mistaken for, the use of suppression automatic weapons and hand-to-hand combat may result in casualties. However, in most cases, once the ship was invaded, the GP side would give up on the goods. Seina's case was merely a special case caused by misinterpretation of information and Seina's abilities.

And of course, pirates were no strangers to economic efficiency either, and they didn't want to deal with decoy ships or troublesome opponents.

That is why information was needed.

“For us, war means nothing less than large-scale plundering. The recent incident with The Demon Princess has proven just how dangerous this is.” The Deputy President looked up at Da Ruma, as if asking for a ruling.

“Once again, make the most of each of your connections to gather information. This also applies to dispatching spies, and do your best with the Central Intelligence Agency as your

base.”

The meeting ended with Da Ruma's resolution.

The Da Ruma executive meeting ended, and the screen projected in a room on Tarrant's ship, the Daidoros, disappeared.

The room, lined with lavish furnishings, was covered in blood and the foul-smelling corpses of young men and women were scattered everywhere.

“Tch, you cowards.” Tarrant's lieutenant, who had been watching the meeting, spat out.

“Haha, well I never had any hopes for them in the first place. Anyway, what happened to those guys?” Tarrant said with a cruel smile, looking down at the half-naked, headless body of a woman.

“All of the people who completed the fake operation have entered the Academy. The rumors of the system going down seem to be true.”

“I see.”

“What do you think? Although we have lost some of our strength, we still have enough to launch an attack, and the Academy seems to be in a state of disarray at the moment.”

“That's no fun. If you want to invade someone, you have to disrupt their peace.”

“Okay. Would you like me to put away this toy? Or are you still having fun?”

In response to the lieutenant's question, Tarrant waved his hand to dismiss him.

“Well then, if you’ll excuse me.”

The Academy was surrounded by several outer rings, and the lights from them made it look like a birdcage woven with silver thread. Like moths to a flame, the Academy was a place where people gathered every day, hoping to obtain the technological expertise and human resources that had accumulated there, both legally and illegally.

The Academy's entire system had gone down due to the rampage of Seina's personal data, which naturally caused problems for the defense mechanisms as well, but since many of the dangerous elements that had been attracted to Seina had been eliminated, there had been almost no problems at all with regards to internal security.

The Academy relied on the cooperation of two major military powers, Jurai and Seniwa, to deploy all of its forces in defense.

—Seniwa’s Kuramitsu Mikami's private third army destroyer No. 088, commonly known as

“Bond.”

Destroyers, deployed in the hundreds of thousands at the front line of the defense line, were 100-meter-class fully automated ships with two AI operators and a human captain on a small bridge about the size of a six-tatami mat.

“Gravity waves detected in area 983423.3!”

“No match on schedule. No identification signal. No ship image. Illegal intruder!”

The two operators took turns reporting information. The captain glared at the forward monitor, ready to go.

“We've detected the same gravity waves throughout District 983423… No, the intrusion area has expanded. Over 10,000 invading spacecraft!”

“033, behind the flagship 07 in charge of District 9834, is ordered to retreat! The Imperial Ship Kyoko will be launching a large-scale attack.”

“Okay, emergency short jump backwards.”

As soon as the captain spoke, Destroyer 088 entered a short jump, and a moment later jumped out to the designated location.

“High energy object from Kyoko confirmed to be launched.”

“Energy body jumped into hyperspace… have appeared in normal space.”

An incredible energy appeared, as if another sun had appeared, and spread out.

“We're too far from the target! There's no way we can destroy the enemy shield…”

Kyoko's attack was launched quite far in front of the enemy, and it appeared to be a missed attack.

However, that was something he did after reading the enemy's strategy.

“All targets exploded! This is the Hosenka!”

“… Are you reading this?”

The Hosenka was a collection of small vessels, its purpose was to send as many different types of vessels as possible into the target space using fake explosions.

The objects disguised as tiny debris ranged from automatic weapons, capsules for infiltration operatives, supplies, and even the smallest nanomachines.

“Target response, rapid decline”

The small device plunged into the dispersed high-density energy mist and evaporated in an instant.

“I don't think we can get through that energy mist, but just to be safe. Scatter some marking mist and check with maximum scan density. Don't let a single shard escape!”

—Seniwa’s Kuramitsu Mikami's private army, planetary scale flagship, G. Windel.

“All debris has been removed. We are currently conducting a rescan on all ships, but there has been no response so far.”

“Jurai’s Seventh Holy Guard Fleet has identified the location of the hyperspace jump and destroyed all large ships.”

“As expected of Kanemitsu-dono, you work fast.” Mikami muttered in admiration.

“Mikami-sama, Airi-sama has informed us that the doors have been locked.”

“I see. Then we'd better get ready too, or we won't make it in time for the ceremony. All vessels should be released from Type 1 Combat Status and shifted to Type 1 Security Status.” As Mikami said this, she pressed her finger on a ship displayed on the diagram in front of her.

“You wanted to see me, sir?”

Her dignified salute, piercing eyes, and short, straight hair made her look like a soldier, but she wasn't wearing a GP uniform, she was wearing a Juraian uniform.

The image that appeared next to the command desk was of the owner of Kyoko, Kamiki Noike Jurai.

“Noike-san, thank you so much for your help today.”

“No, not at all. I am the one who is honored to be of help to you, Principal Mikami.”

Noike was a member of the GP before she was adopted by Seto. She currently lived with the Masaki family on Earth as Tenchi's fiancée.

“Today is the GP Academy’s entrance ceremony. Why don't you go and watch it for the first time in a while? Seina will be there, and some of your old colleagues will be there too.”

“Thank you for the opportunity. I can't leave the housework to Sasami-chan alone, and I also

have to help with the farm work.”

Her words had a mundane, everyday feel to them that didn’t match her dignified appearance in the royal attire of Jurai.

“Ho-ho-ho, you're totally a Masaki housewife now.” Mikami was pleased with this situation, as she was in no small part… no, she was one of the masterminds behind how Noike became Tenchi's fiance.

“Was it Mikami-sama who orchestrated this?”

“Hohoho, that's right. Pease give my regards to the Masaki family.”

“ I will.”

With a bow, Noike's image disappeared. As if to replace it, the sun began to rise from behind the Academy's main planet.

—**Academy main star, GP Academy entrance ceremony day.**

It was a clear, cloudless morning.

“Wooooooo! It's a beautiful day.” Seina was still in his pajamas, gazing up at the sky from the window in his room, dazzled.

The soft sunlight illuminated the trees in the beautiful courtyard, making their young leaves sparkle with freshness.

“…Good morning, Seina-kun.” Rajau called out, stretching like a cat in bed.

“You're early, Seina.”

Kenneth lay down listlessly, his face turned to Seina.

“Good morning Rajau and Kenneth. Look, the weather is lovely!”

“……??”

The two looked at Seina quizzically as he pointed out the window and spoke with glee.

“What are you talking about… It's not unusual for the weather to be nice, is it?”

“Ah, I see! Kenneth-kun, the Earth is in its early stages and doesn't have any weather control.”

“Haha… So it's literally a natural state of affairs, just letting things happen as they please.”

“By the way, Seina, you seem very happy… Could it be that the weather on Earth is unstable?”

“That's not it. I've never had a sunny day at an entrance ceremony, graduation ceremony, field trip, or sports day.” Seina's appearance, with his head bowed in embarrassment, was somewhat pitiful, like an abandoned puppy trudging through the light rain.

“Its never been sunny?”

“Yeah.That's why I was often told …… to take those days off school.”

“Hah~ …… I see. That's very Seina.”

“Even if you think it's annoying, you're a terrible friend for saying something like that.”

“… My teachers and friends' parents have also told me that…”

“……”

Upon hearing this sad confession, Kenneth and Rajau were left with wry smiles on their faces, feeling helpless, and froze. From the outside, they looked ridiculous with paper bags over their heads, but Seina sensed the heavy atmosphere in the room and quickly answered cheerfully.

“Ah, but it's rare for someone to say something like that to your face.”

—But I guess they probably said that when he wasn’t around…

Kenneth and Rajau were moved to tears by his bravery.

“Yay!!!”

As if to shake off the heavy atmosphere, Kenneth stood up heroically and walked over to Seina.

“Don’t look down, Seina! Look at that sunny day!”

Like a scene from a coming-of-age movie, Kenneth put his hand on Seina's shoulder and pointed to the blue sky.

“The sky is blessing us and Seina on our departure!”

Rajau also put his hand on Seina's shoulder.

“Thank you.”

Even if the words were spoken in a theatrical, monotone voice, Seina was grateful. He looked up at the dazzling sun that Kenneth and Rajau were pointing at.

“Achoo!”

All three of them sneezed - that was the moment when the comedy duo became a trio.

“By the way, Seina's face mark is gone… what happened?”

“Ours is still the same, though, right?”

Kenneth and Rajau asked as they threw away their paper bags, crumpled with drool and snot, and drew faces onto new ones.

“Really?”

Seina put his hands on his face and was about to go to the bathroom when a mirror monitor appeared in front of him.

“Wow! … Ah … Ah, it's true.”

The mark that wouldn't come off last night, no matter how much he scrubbed or washed it, was now completely gone.

“Ummm… Could this possibly be an example of his probability bias?”

“But Seina's is on the negative side.”

“So this mark might be a lucky mark!”

“Poof!” Kenneth shouted, clapping his hands.

“I see!”

Kenneth and Rajau had a strange misunderstanding.

Ring ring ring.

A light wind chime-like sound. It was a signal that Seina was receiving a transmission.

“Oh, that's for Seina.

“Oh, yeah, yeah.”

He hurried to his desk and pressed the receive switch.

“…Good morning, Seina.”

A shield wall was erected and a three-dimensional image of Minaho was projected onto the screen, dressed in a glamorous outfit that was different from her usual look.

“Oh Minaho-sama, good morning…”

“Oh, this outfit? This is the formal attire of Jurai.” Minaho noticed Seina's gaze and smiled.

“Today is Seina's big day.”

“… Th-Thank you.”

Seina had always been told to not to attend important days, so when Minaho went out of

her way to see him off in formal attire, he was so happy he wanted to cry.

“Good luck.”

“Yes!”

Seina's innocent smile brought a broad smile to Minaho’s face… but…

“…Hey Seina, I know that today is the day of your new, hopeful beginning.” Her smile suddenly faded, her eyes lowered and her expression became sad.

“Y-yes?”

“I know she’s constantly bothering you, but she doesn't mean to offend you, either. So I'm sorry.”

“Who is that?”

The answer was obvious, but he didn't dare think about it… No, he didn't want to think about it. His brain naturally protected itself by telling him not to think about it. For Seina, escapism could be dangerous, but sometimes it was necessary to prepare his mental defenses.

“I know it's annoying, but please go with it.”

“Maybe…”

That being said, the answer was obvious.

“I'm sorry.”

With that, the communication was cut off and the shield was released.

(…Well…I guess it's fine that Minaho-sama saw me off.) And then, just as he sighed…

“Oh no, we're in trouble!” Kenneth and Rajau came into the room carrying a large wooden box.

“Hey, where were you?”

“Let’s get some food.”

“Actually, the dormitory's system is down, so I couldn't transfer breakfast. The dining hall seemed to be crowded, so I brought this.” Rajau held up the box to show him.

“If you had told me, I would have gone too.”

“You were talking. Anyway, let's eat now.”

“Uh, yeah.”

It was the entrance ceremony, and what's more, it was a rare sunny day for Seina. The ominous phone call put a damper on his spirits, but that was beside the point, bad luck and misfortune were Seina's specialties.

(Don't even think about it.)

Seina looked out the window one more time to make sure.

“Yup, it's sunny!” He said happily and headed towards the table , which was lined with delicious, steamy dishes.

“7024, Breakfast”

In the courtyard that Seina had been looking at earlier, there were people hiding in composite camouflage gear.

They were Hakuren and the other three subordinates of Seto who had been dispatched to the Academy last night.

“…This is seriously a joke. Hakuren, why do we have to do this?” Karen complained as she filmed Seina and the others having breakfast.

“This is also an important mission.” Hakuren, understandably, chided the disgruntled Karen.

“Important? This?”

“You're right… I think it would be a bit more interesting if I were to film every detail of Seina-sama's life, hehe.”

“You know Gyokuren… then it's just a crime of voyeurism!”

Gyokuren's lewd behavior was completely out of place in the refreshing morning atmosphere. It was like being served a full Chinese meal for breakfast. Even Hakuren had a frown on her face, as if she had heartburn.

“Surveillance and voyeurism are the same from the perspective of the person being watched.”

“Uhh… that's…” Hakuren was rendered silent by Gyokuren's reasoning, even though she was the most unreasonable of them all.

“Well, if you're going to be a bodyguard, it's better to be right next to him than to do something half-hearted like this.”

“Let’s go to the bathroom and take a bath together forever♡”

“Gyokuren! Why do you have so much to say about that? If Kiriko hears, she’ll go ballistic again.”

“Oh, Karen… I think Seto-sama would choose to assign someone like that.” She glanced at Karen with a meaningful expression.

“Damn… I hope not, for Seina-sama's sake.” Desperately resisting those devilish eyes, Karen finally managed to say.

Gyokuren's beauty was so great that even a woman could get goosebumps by looking at her. Without the mental immunity she had developed over their long relationship, it would be impossible to endure.

“Haha. Seina-sama is quite a formidable opponent. Even when I took care of him on Mikagami, he managed to dodge my advances.”

“Hey! Have you done it yet?”

“I was serious about it… lol, it’s probably Amane-sama’s fault.”

“What an attempt…” Karen breathed a huge sigh of relief.

“I see, Amane-sama, you've developed a certain level of resistance. That's good.”

Amane's beauty rivaled that of Gyokuren, and her aura was the polar opposite of Gyokuren's, so she was probably like an antibody to counteract Gyokuren's negative energy.

“Geez, Seto-sama, of all people, would you dare push such a virulent pathogen on me… Besides, if you're just going to monitor something, you don't need all this fancy equipment, you can just use nanoprobes or whatever.”

“…This is the Academy. Such things are of no use.” Suiren, who had been sleeping without any sign of it, suddenly said.

“Whoa! Suiren, don't talk to me so suddenly!”

“……Karen, you will be noticed. Be quiet.”

“Crap!”

Karen wanted to complain, but there was no way to counter Suiren, whose presence even Seto couldn't sense. In the end, if you let your guard down mentally, even if she was standing right in front of you, you would be surprised if she spoke to you. It was pointless to suggest any workaround.

“Well… why isn't it useful?”

“Even though we can't see it, this place is a constant battlefield of nanites: spies, guards, viruses, and so on. So in the end, we have no choice but to gather information the old-fashioned way.” Suiren explained matter-of-factly.

“So you're saying there's a possibility of a close bodyguard? …… Good grief.”

“Damn.” Gyokuren chuckled.

“I'm starting to think it would be better to send him back to Earth.” Looking at Gyokuren, Karen muttered with a pained espression and held her head.

“Oh, that's not going to work, is it? Not even for us… right?”

“…That's true, but…huh?”

It was then that Karen noticed Hakuren's condition.

“…..voyeur….always together…..” Hakuren was red in the face and frozen, muttered in an voice too small to be heard.

“Oh dear, I thought it was too quiet… here we go again”

“Here we go again.”

“Here we go again.”

Hakuren sometimes fell into a thought loop due to some trigger, and was unable to escape for a while. This was her only flaw, who was earnest, proactive, and the leader of the four.

“Well, I guess I'll just leave it until I come to a conclusion about the thought loop. If I stop midway, it'll be a bit of a hassle.”

White rice, potato and wakame (seaweed) miso soup, salted salmon fillets, spinach and natto (fermented soybeans), raw egg and nori (seaweed)… Seina was impressed by the typical Japanese breakfast menu laid out on the table.

“I never thought I'd be eating this in space.”

“Hahaha. I'm glad that you're happy.”

“But are Kenneth and Rajau okay? Especially natto, there are people in Japan who can't eat it.”

“This menu has a short history, but it has already become a staple in the morning.”

“Oh, I see.”

“I grew up in the Academy, so I didn't even know that this was originally food from Earth.” Kenneth said, as he stirred the natto with great vigor.

“My father was also at the Academy, so I ate natto in my hometown.”

“When I first met him, I wanted to intimidate him, but Rajau just ate it with gusto… Oops.” Kenneth suddenly turned on the TV monitor.

“Now, what is the world situation today?”

The news program with a reporter and commentator, similar to what you'd see on Earth, was displayed on the screen.

“Kenneth-kun, why don't we watch a different news program? You're recording it anyway, so you don't have to watch it in real time…”

“Her smile is the best way to wake up in the morning!”

As he made this assertive statement, a distant view of a city was projected onto the screen, with the program's subtitles appearing over it.

“Oh, here it comes!”

“Good morning to everyone at the Academy…”

The screen shifted to another location, where a man and a woman who appeared to be presenters appear, bowed, and began speaking. Although there were differences in the footage and sets, the structure was not much different from the programs on Earth.

“What? That's not Kirche-chan.”

“Today, we'll be changing the content of our program and bringing you a special program about the big event that happened last night in City 199.”

“It's a special program!!”

Kenneth felt the same indignation he felt when a baseball broadcast was delayed and he wasn't able to record the program that followed.

“Speaking of City 199, isn't that the place we went to hang out last night?”

“That doesn't matter! Why isn't Kirche-chan showing up?”

“Isn't that strange? One of the hosts and the commentators is the same people as always.”

“Is it a sudden illness?”

“Seina, Kirche-chan is a CG idol, so she can’t get sick.”

“Well, maybe she's doing a field report. Let's wait and see.”

“…That's true.” Kenneth sat down and began to eat his natto and rice.

“……, was that thing rammed into the base of the city?”

The screen showed the base of a city into which a large battleship had plunged.

The battleship's hull was not damaged, but it appeared to have run aground on a structure, its huge, shiny black body lying there like a stranded whale on the shore.

The honeycomb structural columns had snapped and were strewn across the hull and the surrounding area, revealing terrible signs of destruction, but from a distance the foundations of the city looked like a sponge, and even though the damaged areas seemed huge, they did not pose a threat to the functioning of the city when viewed from the outside.

However, the compounding factors that spread from there caused damage in various places that night, and even hit Seina himself in the form of a huge structure falling on him.

“Oh, so that's what caused that shock.” Seina remembered the time he met Widow.

Afterwards, the events that had happened were reported one after another, including the system going haywire due to the program by the legendary philosopher Hakubi Washu, the GP military's scramble training and mock battles, the arrests of a large number of criminals and the damage caused. The reporters and commentators on screen were excited, as if they were in a festival.

“It seems like there was a lot of fuss. Still, if the system crash didn't just happen in the dorms, but throughout the Academy…”

“More importantly, what happened to Kirche-chan?” Kenneth shoveled miso soup into his mouth and yelled.

“It seems like the bigger deal for Kenneth is that Kirche isn't showing up.”

Having no other choice, Rajau fired up another monitor and searched for any reports about Kirche.

“Ah, I thought so… Due to the system crash, most of the hyperspace net is no longer usable.”

“What?! Then what about Kirche-chan?”

Seeing Kenneth's face on the verge of tears, Rajau looked annoyed.

“Yes, yes. I'll try something… well, she's a famous CG idol, so she might be on the news somewhere.”

Then a channel was selected and her image appeared on it.

“Oh, this is it. Let me take it back a bit.”

Let's go back to the beginning of the news.

“Idol companion, run away from home?!” A large caption appeared on the screen.

“She ran away from home?!”

“Oh, that's interesting… I see.”

Although the degree of their surprise differed, they were not surprised at the fact that the CG idol had run away from home.

“Do CG idols run away from home?”

“Kirche-chan is an AI, an artificial intelligence. And she has an Astral, so she could run away from home.”

“Astral… A soul?”

“She’s a type of artificial intelligence. They take years or decades to develop, just like a normal person. And as they accumulate knowledge and experience, some of them generate souls.”

“Wow… that's pretty amazing. A program with a soul.”

“Basically, they're the same as us. The difference is whether their brain is artificial or not. And once they reach that level of intelligence, they're granted human rights.”

“I see… but if it's a program, what happens if you copy it?”

“Strangely, copies don't have astrals. That's why they're so valuable, and they have human rights. But what happened that made her run away? I heard her creator was talking about transferring her to a synthetic body soon… Hey Kenneth…”

Rajau looked at Kenneth and stopped moving, seemingly relaxed.

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

“Good morning, everyone at the Academy.”

Kenneth was sipping tea as he watched a recording of Kirche's greetings that he had put together.

“Hmm…”

Seina was impressed by Kirche's greeting, which changed subtly each day. He had imagined that as an AI, it would be somewhat uniform, but she didn't feel that way at all. He could read her emotions in just that short greeting.

Above all, she was charming. From the outside, she looked like a calm office lady, but her mannerisms and the way she spoke were really cute.

“…I understand why Kenneth says it's good for waking up in the morning.” Seina said as he sighed.

“I can't deny that, but… Kenneth, are you satisfied now?”

“…Okay, charging complete! Let's go.” Kenneth exclaimed, jumping straight to his feet with energy.

“…I understand, Seina-sama. Please call me Dog!” At almost the same time, Hakuren yelled. It seemed her thought loop had finished.

“Come to your senses!”

She didn't feel like pursuing what kind of associations she came to. As always, it's quicker to just punch Hakuren in the head.

“Ouch! What are you doing Karen…ahh?”

Once she reached the conclusion of the thought loop, she was quick to return to normal. Hakuren quickly grasped the current situation and noticed that Seina and the others had finished their meal and were heading towards the exit.

“It looks like it's time for you to leave. As we discussed, Karen and Gyokuren will continue to follow Seina-sama, while Suiren and I will pick up some disguises and wait at the ceremony site.”

“Roger that.”

Without making a sound, the four of them split into two groups and began to move.

Chapter Three: Entrance Ceremony

It was a wonderful view.

The beautiful, cloudless sky - well, it was sunny on Seina's special day - was a beautiful sight in itself, but there was something else that moved him even more.

“Beautiful.”

The huge cobblestone promenade, perhaps several kilometers long and a hundred meters wide, leading to the GP Academy campus, was so vast that one could hardly notice the huge snowy haze trees with their pure white flowers, towering over the ground like a cirrus cloud. And the petals scattered in the soft breeze, just like snow.

Along the beautiful tree-lined avenue, freshmen were walking in their new uniforms, which they had yet to get used to. Among them were Seina and his rooommates.

Although Seina continued to have minor misfortunes, such as tripping on cobblestones, getting hit by a branch from a small tree, and getting caught up in a herd of wild boars, his expression was filled with excitement and new expectations.

A new land, a new environment, a great future awaited. Even if it was a completely normal everyday life for people living in space, there was a great horizon that was beyond the reach of Earthlings.

—Hope.

This had been quickly shattered ever since Seina was born.

It had never been in Seina's hands for this long before, and the excitement made him want to scream.

“Ah…”

Seina took a deep breath and tried to calm his excitement. He didn't know when his misfortune would strike. In order to cope with it, he had to maintain a little bit of calm in his heart.

“What's wrong, Seina?”

“Nothing. Anyway, Kenneth, I'm glad you were able to remove the mark on your face.”

“Well, it's just temporary.” Kenneth said, rubbing his forehead.

“They can erase it when we go to school or training, for example. Especially at an event like today, where many people from the outside are coming, it would be a bad idea to have students wandering around with that mark on their faces.”

“That's true. So they leave it on in the dorms?”

“It only lasts for about a month, if you stay in the dorms and behave well during that time, of course.”

“If we escape again and get caught, we'll have to extend our sentence for another month. Ha ha ha, but don't be afraid! We've got paper bags!!” Kenneth proudly held up the paper bag with the face on it.

“Yes, indeed!”

Everyone's attention was focused on Kenneth and Rajau's loud voices.

“Kenneth, Rajau!”

Seina was so embarrassed that he turned bright red and dragged the two of them away from the scene.

“It feels like a page from my youth.” Karen said with deep emotion while continuing to take photos in the bushes.

The boys looked like puppies playing together, which made her smile.

“We're almost at the encounter point. Don't miss the decisive moment.”

“……”

Karen's expression darkened at Gyokuren's words.

“…It's a stain on the important pages of one's youth.”

That was Karen's honest opinion on what she expected to happen in the future. And it was also a sarcastic remark towards Gyokuren, who was finding her prediction amusing.

“Haha, that's also a memory from my youth.”

Gyokuren, who was far more emotionally mature than Karen, brushed off her sarcasm.

“Even by Gyokuren's standards… Yours isn't sweet and sour or bittersweet.”

“The pages are so beautiful that I want to get all dirty.”

The voice sent chills through Karen's spine, a sensation similar to intense pleasure. Goosebumps broke out all over her body.

“Oh, if you say that, it's no joke!”

“It's been a long time since I've been this excited.”

She looked like a leopard trying to tear apart a captured mouse…or rather, an antelope.

“Ah, well…”

No matter how outrageous her words and actions may be, Gyokuren never let her emotions or impulses get the better of her - even if she knew it was just a joke, her beauty was too dangerous. The influence she had on others was too strong.

(If this continues, Seina-sama will…) She desperately tried to suppress the urge to protect Seina and help him escape to Earth.

“Don't worry. He’s not the type who will spoil so easily.” Gyokuren eased the mental pressure.

“You…”

It was a nasty technique she learned from Seto.

“Please, can you take your hands off your sword?”

“Huh?”

Before she knew it, Karen's right hand was on the hilt of her sword.

“You'll probably cut me down before I can do anything to Seina-sama… hehe.”

“…Absolutely a poor choice of people…” Karen muttered, wiping the cold sweat from her face.

After escaping to a suitable spot and finally calming down, Seina turned his attention away from the overwhelming scenery and towards the people walking along the street.

“Hey Kenneth. There are a lot of people here who aren't students… are they family members or something?”

Most of the students were walking with people who appeared to be their families.

“Yeah, you didn't see any of the other freshmen when you left the dorms, did you? They had to meet their parents, so they left a little bit before us.”

“Oh, I didn't know that.”

“That being said, most parents are just here for sightseeing. GP students get a lot of family benefits.”

“Sightseeing? Family benefits?”

“In other words, if you use the GP's regular cargo ships, your round trip expenses are free, and if you use the GP's lodgings, the accommodation is also free. All you have to pay for out of your own pocket is food and sightseeing, so it's really cheap.”

“So it's not uncommon for parents and siblings to be together for months at a time.”

“Oh… So Kenneth’s family aren't coming?”

“My house is at the Academy, so they won't be coming.”

“My parents don't come with me every time. They just use their perks to go sightseeing… I think they're probably out having fun somewhere right now.”

“What about Seina?”

“What? They run a business. Besides, they're happy that they get a lot of customers when I'm not around.” Seina's expression soured a little.

“Hahaha! We're not kids anymore. We don't need our parents to accompany us. It's just annoying. Anyway, the ceremony will be broadcast, so they can watch it if they want.” Kenneth said as he slapped Seina on the shoulder as if to comfort him.

“L-live?”

“Don't they do that on Earth?”

“There's no live broadcast, but… well, parents bring in cameras and videos and record things… what?”

At that moment, he heard the murmur of people and saw the flow of people being divided, just like a river being divided by an island.

“What?”

“What is it?”

Kenneth and the boys stretched out to get a better look, but suddenly the crowd in front of them parted to the left and right, as if a door was opening.

“Who is it… Ugh!”

There, standing in front of them, was something so sinister that even saying her name was enough to terrify them.

It was what Karen called “a stain on the precious pages of one's youth,” the moment when a shadow fell, shattering the boy’s hopes.

“…Airi-san…”

She was wearing a jet black kimono with a silver embroidered obi. Even from a distance, she looked beautiful in her kimono, and was in a state of incredible self-absorption, like an enka (traditional Japanese ballad) singer.

At first glance, she appeared to be a guardian accompanying a new student, but as if to pour cold water on such a fresh feeling, she was giving off an aura of lewdness that was clearly

not appropriate for such an occasion. Moreover, Airi had not slept at all since she had been in charge of repairing the main system, which had been down due to last night's disturbance.

This natural high lowered the hydraulic pressure of Airi's brakes, known as reason. Although, it's true that Airi didn't really have any braking ability at all…

“…Good morning, Seina.”

“!”

That incredibly sensual voice left Seina, Kenneth, and Rajau paralyzed, unable to move.

“Congratulations on your enrollment in the GP Academy. I've come to witness the ceremony in place of your parents on Earth.”

“Oh, thank you…”

However, she didn’t seem like a substitute paent, but more like a mistress who had shown up at his (Seina’s) father’s funeral to skim off his fortune.

“It's kind of…scary.”

There's no room for argument with Rajau's honest opinion.

(It's a repeat of yesterday's nightmare…)

He desperately resisted the feeling that he was being pulled into a hell of incomprehensible lust.

(Minaho-sama is sorry about this? Or rather, I don't want you to just say sorry about something like this…)

“Just for today, you can call me Mom.” Her cheeks were flushed and her eyes were slightly moist, but Airi's expression was that of a spider with its prey in front of it.

(Definitely on purpose)

The poison was so concentrated that it didn't take someone with Seina's exceptional danger sensing abilities to detect it.

“Hey, call me mommy♡”

“Ugh!”

He felt like he was about to be eaten at any moment… It was an awful chill.

—I don't understand what it means… No, I understand what it means. I don't understand why she went to such lengths…

(Help me~~)

However, there was no way anyone would respond to the screams of Seina's heart after witnessing this scene. They simply walked past him, not even making eye contact, as if they wanted nothing to do with him.

Seina's screams were not heard, but just as he was having a close encounter with Airi, Kiriko woke up. Or, more accurately, the effect of the nanomachines wore off.

"……! Damn it!"

Kiriko instantly realized the current time from the angle of the light coming in through the window and jumped up from the table where she had been leaning.

"Amane, Amane, wake up!"

She shook Amane roughly as she slept across from her.

"Hmm? What's wrong?"

"Don't be stupid, wake up!"

"Oh no, I fell asleep! Wow, that was a close call."

Amane also instantly understood the situation.

"What are you going to do? If you go home you'll be totally late."

"No problem! I brought a change of clothes."

"Okay, let's just take a shower and hurry out."

Then, having stripped off their clothes and underwear, the two of them ran into the shower pod at the same time.

"Hey, this is for one person!"

Amane followed Kiriko in, with their backs pressed tightly together.

"There's no time, so it can't be helped! I'm getting in like this, so it's OK, OK."

"Oh my God!"

The next moment, liquid nanomachines sprayed out with great force.

"…Hmm? Wow, Kiriko, you've got some surprisingly… well, pretty good muscles."

"Ahhh! Where are you touching, Amane!"

"Don't make that cute voice, it makes me feel weird"

“Don't feel weird! And don't push your body against me! It's gross!”

“It's because Kiriko is acting crazy in such a small space! And when I say it feels weird, I mean it feels bad!!”

As they finished, the two quickly jumped out of the shower pod.

“I don't feel refreshed at all.”

“I agree …… kuk!”

Kiriko's eyes were momentarily drawn to Amane’s beautiful back as she started running ahead her.

She was well muscled, yet feminine and plump, and even her slightest movement revealed that her entire body was springy and supple. And she had that extraordinary beauty.

For a moment, she had a nightmare that Seina and Amane of last evening - who, of course, was not so different in appearance from Elma's disguise, but was in fact Amane herself - would become a reality in the future.

“I hate you, …….” Unconsciously, she said it out loud.

“What the hell?! I get it, it was my fault.”

“Huh?”

Kiriko, who hadn't realized she had spoken out loud, was momentarily flustered, wondering if someone had read her mind.

“But I'm in a hurry, so please be patient…”

“That's not what I meant… right??”

Suddenly she noticed Amane staring at her body.

“Wh-what?!”

She twisted her body to hide the front.

“Kiriko. You have a beautiful body.”

“What? Are you being sarcastic?”

“I just touched you and I thought, I'm really envious of your smooth, fine skin. Your beautiful brunette hair really stands out against your pure white skin. I guess that's what you'd expect from a relative of Funaho-sama.”

“Wh-what?…I can't help but think it's sarcastic coming from a top model.”

That said, it didn't feel bad to be praised.

“By the way, how long do you intend to stay naked?”

“Argh!”

Meanwhile, Seina was facing something even more serious.

(Let's run!)

For herbivores, the only way to survive was to flee.

(Jumps backwards and then… Ah, I have to go to the entrance ceremony.)

Seina's seriousness proved to be his downfall.

Feeling a chill in his hand, Seina looked down.

“A white snake?”

For a moment, that's what he thought, as he saw Airi's slender, white hand gripping his wrist. The jet black kimono and the silver thread embroidery that extended from it made it stand out even more.

The next time he looked ahead, it was too late, and Airi was right in front of him.

“Come on, let's go.”

Airi took Seina's hand and started walking in the opposite direction from the venue.

“Oh, Airi. The venue is in the other way!”

“Let's find a quiet place to discuss our future plans.”

That was not something someone who had come to represent his parents should say.

“No, the entrance ceremony…”

He couldn't just follow someone into what he knew was a tiger's mouth.

“It's okay. Our future is more important.”

“I thought you had to go too, Airi-san…

“Of course.”

She pulled him towards the bushes in the opposite direction of the venue.

“No… not that one… but, Airi-san, you’re the chairman!”

“I said it's okay.”

“That's the last thing you should say! I have to go to the entrance ceremony!”

“I just can't decide if it'll go in, come, or not… Seina-kun's sex.”

A burst of dad jokes - a kind of berserk state called self-absorption. Whatever she said, it was likely to be interpreted negatively.

Although Seina has suffered many misfortunes in his life, he had never been bothered by women.

This sudden series of terrible, unfamiliar misfortunes made him feel like he had cerebral anemia and his consciousness was fading.

(N-no… Don't let go of my consciousness! Don't fall asleep!!)

If he lost consciousness, Airi would get what she wanted.

“Someone help me…”

Desperately calling for help, Seina's anguished scream stopped midway.

No one around tried to help him, or even look at him, as the law of the wild said that if one animal falls victim to a predator, the rest of the pack would be safe.

“Haha… I won't let you get away.”

As Seina felt a sense of incredible despair, Airi approached him from behind.

"You know, today I have some wonderful news for you…"

(…I guess…it's no good anymore?)

The thick fog, containing the deadly poison of Airi's unreasonableness, made him lose his direction and his attachment to life was on the verge of snapping.

“Hehehe… You know what?”

Confident of victory, Airi reeled in her prey.

(……)

Although it seemed that Seina had completely given up, his trained mind continued to unconsciously resist.

With her free left hand, she reached out to grab something - that brief moment was what determined whether Seina lived or died(?).

“Seina-chan♡”

A calm, powerful voice. Warmth transmitted from the hands. It instantly dissipated and purified the deep, poisonous mist that had been so ferocious.

“Mitoto-san!”

His savior has arrived. Seina's outstretched hand was grabbed by Mitoto, who was wearing a smile as bright as the sun.

“Congratulations on your admission, Seina-chan.” Mitoto said as she stroked Seina's beloved short haircut.

“Oh, thank you. Thank you!”

"Seina-chan. ♥"
The speaker had a mellow but strong voice and a warm grip. In an instant, it dispersed and purified the venomous and deep mist that had been so threatening before.
"Mitoto-san!"
The savior arrived. The person who grabbed Seina's hand was Mitoto, whose big smile was as bright as the sun.
Caution: This is Seina's imagination.

“Seina, are you crying? Are you that happy? I'm so glad for you.”

The speed of her stroking increased. His head was starting to get a little hot, but it felt like he was being infused with energy. It was a feeling of happiness, like taking a warm bath on a cold winter's day when your body is frozen cold.

“Yes, I'm happy!!” Seina nodded vigorously.

Mitoto's arrival wasn't only a relief for Seina, but also for Karen, who had been feeling guilty about him.

“Phew.”

“That's a shame, it was about to get interesting.” Gyokuren closed her eyes in disapproval and shrugged.

“Are you a demon?”

“Haha… But it's going to be interesting for Airi-sama.”

“Excuse me, I’m talking!”

A grumpy Airi interrupted Mitoto and Seina, who were in something of a carefree mood.

“Oh Airi-sama, good morning.”

“Ah… Good morning.”

Mitoto's warm smile quickly killed Airi's momentum.

“…No, it's not that! Mitoto-sama. Today, I am here to attend the entrance ceremony in place of Yamada Seina-kun's parents…”

“Oh, my goodness, you too, Airi-sama. Are you guys friends of Seina-chan?”

“Oh, yes.”

Kenneth and Rajau, who had been paralyzed, were also freed from the spell by Mitoto's words.

“Well then, you guys, come on, let's go together.”

“Yeeeesss!”

As if spring had suddenly come after the bitter cold, Kenneth and Rajau were so happy to be freed from the oppressive air that they felt like they were about to burst into dance.

“Hey, wait a second!”

“I'm glad the weather is nice, Airi-sama.”

“Y-yes, that's right~ hohohoho.”

All of Airi's momentum was dodged in spectacular fashion. It was like a fight between a bull and a matador. Even Airi had no way to deal with Mitoto's innocence.

(Thank goodness I was saved!)

This was truly a blessing in disguise. The spider's thread that hung down from the sky boasted strength comparable to that of special steel monomolecular wire.

“Crap!”

But Ari, too, was unwilling to back down so easily.

“Oh, hey Seina, actually I need to talk to you about something… Alone, just you and me.”

She tried to somehow pull the flow back towards myself… but…

“Oh Airi-sama, I want to hear it too.”

Mitoto stared with kitten-like eyes.

“What?” …… yes, that's right.”

Even Airi's modest resistance was not enough to get through to Mitoto, who had an overwhelmingly natural mental mass. With a small cough, as if she had given up.
“Actually….”

That's what she was about to say.

“That hurt! Yamada Seina!”

Seiryo, veins bulging from his temples, stood before Seina.

“I will never forgive you, Yamada Seina! At our prestigious GP Academy entrance ceremony, an Earthling like you was chosen to give the speech on behalf of the school!” Seiryo pointed at Seina with a flourish, like a Kabuki actor, and shouted with his nostrils flaring out.

“…I’m the representative?”

“Amazing! Good for you, Seina-chan.”

Seina was confused and Mitoto was happy, but Airi's face was pale.

—Bam, bam, bam…

The air began to quietly shake.

“What’s happening?”

It was like a meteorite of enormous mass falling.

Seina was shocked by the sense of immense danger. Even Mitoto seemed to have noticed something was wrong.

“Oh my, Airi-sama is really angry.” She said in a tone that was not at all tense.

“Ugh!”

Airi's body was trembling violently, like the prelude to a volcanic eruption.

Even the most insensitive person would have been able to tell at a glance that it was dangerous… But without realizing how extremely dangerous and perilous this situation was, Seiryo added more stimulation.

“That's not okay! Even if God forgives you, I will never forgive you!”

Zzzzzzzzz!

An incredible dark aura emanated from Airi, which felt almost physically intimidating, and the people around were blown away by her.

—Damn it…

Mitoto had stolen their sweet time together, and Seiryo had snatched away the Seina's announcement as the class representative, which was meant to let off some steam.

“Hmph! Now's the time to flee back to the outskirts before you taint this sacred ceremony!”

This idiot (Seiryo) gave the final push to the immense frustration that had been compressed to the point of becoming a black hole.

—Die—

A voice and shockwave that seemed to reverberate from hell, froze even the soul in an instant.

With explosive reflexes, Airi closed the distance between her and Seiryo in an instant, then delivered a River Blow, a Gazelle Punch, and a Dempsey Roll in an instant.

“Geeee!”

Seiryo lost consciousness in an instant and his body began to collapse on the spot, as if pulled by gravity.

“Ha!”

Taking a sharp breath, Airi gathered strength in her body and moved on to her next attack without a moment's hesitation.

She unleashed a full course of superhuman moves that could only be seen in manga, animation, or games…no, a full panchon, on Seiryo in a stunning chain.

“Mi-Mitoto-san… shouldn’t you stop her?”

“Hmmmm… it's okay.”

In contrast to the gruesome act before his eyes, Mitoto's tone was as nonchalant as ever.

Gubougahaaaaaa!

Seiryo's body flew into the air, trailing up a spectacular plume of blood, before slamming into the ground.

Gucha. …….

It was a terrifying sound, like the sound of an egg being dropped from a great height, and it sounded life-threatening, and it evoked a physiological repulsion.

“Mi-Mitoto-san!”

“It's okay.”

“But it sounded weird.”

Seina was terrified, Mitoto was smiling, and Kenneth and Rajau were so shocked by the gruesome situation that they lay on the ground covering their eyes and ears and trembled.

“Ah, Airi-sama… why?”

But Seiryo managed to get up, albeit unsteadily.

“He…he stood up!?”

“See, it's okay.”

However, this was as foolish as waving a red cloth in front of a raging bull. Airi, still harboring an explosive pressure of frustration, went into berserker mode and attacked.

“……Ah, ahhhhhh”

Right in front of the stunned Seina, the tragic sequence of Seiryo falling down → standing up → Airi attacking → Seiryo standing up → attacking again was played out in a perfect loop.

However, the end of the seemingly endless loop came suddenly.

The unconscious Seiryo dodged Airi's attack and stumbled over the shrubbery and onto an emergency driveway.

“Oh, careful!”

Before Seina could shout that, a two-seater rocket bike came hurtling towards them at incredible speed, knocking Seiryo flying and racing away.

Bang!!

A bad sound that made you feel physiological aversion.

The sound that signals the end of life.

As the Seiryo was thrown off and fell, the sound of twigs breaking and leaves rustling could be heard.

Mitoto grabbed Seina's arm as she ran in that direction like a rabbit.

“It's okay, Seina-chan.”

“No way! We have to help him!”

“It's okay♡” Mitoto's smile made all tension disappear.

If he hadn't seen Seiryo stand up despite being attacked by Airi earlier, he would have shook off her hand.

“Really?”

“It's okay♡”

The strong, gentle pressure was just like the sun in “The North Wind and the Sun” **(TN: Aesop’s Fables).** Seina also clung to the warmth without any hesitation.

“Oh?”

Suddenly, the madness from before disappeared from Airi's eyes as she looked around.

“Have you come to your senses?”

“Hehe. I guess it's because the target in front of me is gone.” She spoke in a cheerful tone, as if the horrific acts unfolding before her were nothing.

Boom!

Just then, fireworks began to launch into the sky to mark the start of the entrance ceremony.

“Oh? It's almost time. Let's go.” Airi, having released all her stress, said with a big smile.

“OK, I got a good shot.” Gyokuren smiled with satisfaction.

“I can really understand how Kiriko feels… Let's leave it to Hakuren and the others and pack it up. I'm really tired.” Karen slumped her shoulders and began to walk away.

“Hakuren, Seina-sama is headed your way. We will be waiting at Renka, so please leave the rest to us.” **(TN: Kaj waits until page 117 to explain what Renka is!)**

“Copy that. Thanks for your help.

After receiving Hakuren's response, Gyokuren followed Karen to the transfer base.

Walking straight down the road lined with giant snow haze trees, and crossing a large moat, the huge building that towered right in front of them was the gate to GP Academy and the large auditorium where the entrance ceremony was held.

The GP Academy auditorium was filled with a solemn atmosphere, and felt like a huge church.

The giant trees that made up the foundation of the building were originally planted as the gates to the Imperial Academy's security facilities. When it became the Galactic Federation, a cathedral was built based on the giant trees that had grown there to commemorate the event.

The base of the giant tree was Juraian, and the decorative design was in the style of Seniwa, where the Kuramitsu family lived. I looked like a simple European house on Earth. This large auditorium was also a symbol of friendship between Jurai and Seniwa.

The soft light filtered through the gaps in the trees, the clean, forest-like scent, and the fact that small animals like birds and squirrels lived here – it was like a fantasy world, and one could sense its long history.

However, Seina didn't have the time to enjoy the atmosphere at the moment.

“What should I do?”

Although he was assigned to represent the new students, he didn't have time to think about what to say.

“Normally, when it comes to a speech from the representative, there's usually some advance notice, right?”

“Could this also be due to the bias in Seina's probabilities?”

“Oh, I see… I guess it’s possible.”

“Calm down, Seina. We have examples of previous entrance ceremonies to use, so we have automatically created a version with some seasonal words and slight adjustments, so you can just read it as is.”

“Thank you Rajau.”

“Even so, there are a lot of spectators this year.” Kenneth stretched and looked around.

In the auditorium, the freshman students were separated into boys and girls on either side of the central aisle, with teachers and staff lined up along the walls on either side, and in the

elevated stands were seated the dignitaries and their families, overlooking the ceremony.

“Airi-sama, it seems like there are a lot more people here this year.” Mitoto, who was sitting next to Airi, was also looking around curiously.

“Curious onlookers watching Seina-kun!” A sullen Airi spat out.

“Seina-chan is really popular.”

“It’s not necessarily just goodwill, though.” She glared at the audience.

“Huh?”

Mitoto followed Airi's fleeting glance, to a group of people who looked clearly out of place in the jubilant atmosphere.

“Oh, the Criminal Investigation Division is here too. They all look a bit scary. Are they sleepy after a long day at work?”

“Maybe. Well, half of it is to make sure we haven't missed any wanted criminals, and half of it is…” Airi muttered while smiling wryly at Mitoto's comment.

“I can't believe that kid got him.” In the midst of the Criminal Investigation Division group, a young detective spat out in a frustrated tone.

“You're too loud.” The old detective sitting next to him said, staring at Seina.

However, there were many detectives around them who were also speaking loudly, so the young detective didn't pay it any attention and carried on.

“Miyasu-san, aren't you frustrated? We and our predecessors have been diligently investigating for hundreds of years, and many people have been sacrificed… and yet we can't even investigate!”

“…You're too young…”

“Well, I'm not really in a position to brag about my hard work yet.”

“It's about that boy.”

“……Ha! He was just lucky.”

“Yeah?” The older detective looked at the younger detective in surprise.

“…Heh… Heh, hahahaha, good luck is a masterpiece.” The old detective couldn't contain himself and burst out laughing.

“How could it be otherwise? It's not funny!”

“Hunted by hundreds of pirates, targeted by thousands of criminals… you can't really call him lucky, can you?”

“Th-that's…” The young detective imagined that fact and got goosebumps all over his body.

“…She was a good woman.”

“Huh?”

"It's clear from her household account that we don't need to interrogate her. The sentence has been fixed, and all we can do is confirm the investigation.

“But that doesn’t mean I’m convinced!”

So I asked Mikami-sama to let me be a member of the transfer team so that I could get a glimpse of his face.

“So that’s why… And?”

“…I was so excited, despite my age… Like a Goddess.”

Goddess? You mean that demon?

“That's right. And as I was thinking about that, that woman, Widow, looked my way and laughed…” The old detective's hands were trembling as he spoke calmly.

“Miyasu-san?”

“The last time I was scared was when a pirate blew my senior's head off when I was a rookie… I was in love with her, or maybe it was more like worship.” (**TN: He's talking about Mihoshi.)**

“Are you kidding me?”

“Today, we get to see the handsome young man who made Widow turn herself in.” The old detective said calmly, still staring at Seina.

“I have a lot of respect for you! Please don't say things like that.”

“My reason for living has been snatched away from me… It's a kind of addiction. All the detectives who come here are more or less like this. Be careful not to let it happen to you.”

“Miyasu-san!”

“Of course I'm relieved they caught her… it's horrifying to think that a monster like that was on the loose. Anyway… I'm going to stay here and calm down for a while. You go look around the area.”

“Patrolling…”

“I didn't come all the way here just to be a spectator. If that boy is a magnet for criminals…”

“Ah! Got it!”

Catching the sharp glare of the older detective, the younger detective quickly ran up the stairs. Hearing his footsteps, he suddenly looked down towards the bottom of the stands.

“Hmm? Isn't that Amane-chan? She's still as eye-catching as ever.”

The area under the stands where the old detective, Mitoto and Airi were sitting was quite dim, unlike the seats where the students were seated, where the lights were intentionally concentrated. He found Amane standing there.

“…Now that I think about it, it was Amane-chan who found the boy.”

“Oh dear, looks like we made it just in time.” Amane took a quick breath and looked around.

“But more importantly, didn't you hit someone?”

“What are you talking about?” She pretended not to understand. “It was totally an accident. It wasn’t fatal.”

“It's his fault for running out into the driveway for emergency vehicles! I reported the accident, and I've already talked to his family about eliminating his stalking behaviour.”

“Elimination by force?”

"His house’s motto is, 'If you like someone, you go for them. It's only natural that they'd be furious with me. His parents used to mess with him when we were kids and watched him being chased by the gohei totora while laughing. It's a legal and a righteous land."

“…But…is it okay to just leave him like that?”

“If that's what you thought, why didn't you tell me to stop then?”

“Ugh! B-but…” She was stuck for an answer. “I wasn't the one driving. I couldn't afford to be late… and…”

—Besides, there was something about that place that made it seem dangerous to stay there.

“…Kiriko. Look there.”

Watching with amusement as Kiriko desperately tried to convince herself, Amane pointed out a fact that would likely solve the problem.

“…What the hell?!”

Amane pointed to a huge speaker set up next to the stage, where Seiryo was standing as if nothing had happened.

“If that's all it took to kill him, I wouldn't have any trouble either.”

“…Does Tennan-sensei have a twin?”

“There's no way there are two of them!”

“If you see one, there are thirty…”

“Hmmmm… that might be possible.”

(I guess it makes sense if it's some kind of pest.)

“…If we had high-level repair nanomachines customized for him, we could fix him in this short time.”

Kiriko, having sorted out her feelings for the time being, returned to the main topic.

“His family owns one of those big manufacturers. He's basically a biological cyborg.”

“It's a daring move that would be impossible for anyone other than the Tennan conglomerate… But isn't it impossible for him to recover mentally? With all that damage, even if his body heals, the trauma…”

Even if the body were to heal in an instant, the mental shock would prevent them from realizing this, and they would normally be unable to move at all.

“Ha! No way. He's a carefree genius, so to speak.”

“A carefree genius… I just don't like it.”

Even Kiriko, as expected, could understand Amane's reluctance to do so.

“Right?” Amane seemed satisfied after getting Kiriko to admit it, but then…

“Oh no.” She quickly hid in the shade of the illuminated plants.

“What happened?”

“The spectators…”

“Hmm? Ah, so they're starting to notice you, Amane.”

Kiriko saw some of the audience pointing in Amane's direction and saying something.

“I'm used to being fussed over, but today it’s a bit too much.”

“Final camera check completed, no abnormalities found.”

Hakuren and Suiren were hiding on a large beam, slightly above the spectator seats.

“Roger that.”

“We've found a few second-degree wanted criminals. What should we do?”

When Hakuren started to speak, “Send the info to the GP…”

“Ah, everyone has been detained. There are no suspicious people within visible range.”

“Got it. The ceremony is about to begin. Let's start filming.”

Multi-directional cameras were scattered about.

“Everybody be quiet!” Seiryo's loud voice echoed throughout the auditorium.

“I declare the 8635th GP Academy Entrance Ceremony open!”

With that voice, the previous noise suddenly fell silent, and a profound silence took hold of the auditorium.

“Greetings, Principal Kuramitsu Mikami!”

—Tap, tap, tap.

In the silence, the principal of GP Academy walked slowly but with dignified footsteps towards the podium.

(Ah… that person)

It was the old woman who had been standing next to Airi in the chairman's office yesterday.

“Everyone, welcome to the GP Academy…”

Mikami's greeting began with a wonderful sense of timing that drew the audience in.

“This Academy was established with the goal of providing short-term training for GP members who will protect the peace of the galaxy and protect the lives of people. Therefore, our curriculum is mainly comprised of on-the-job training, and there are quite a few people who will find it very rigorous. Nevertheless, I sincerely hope that everyone here will graduate from this Academy and become fine GP members. Everyone, please do not be timid and spare no effort to become a fine member of the GP.”

The freshmen who were nervous were given a clear guide by Mikami's short and concise speech, and their expressions showed a sense of purpose. Originally, such a ceremony had the role of instilling a sense of solidarity and purpose. It was meaningless if it was just a formality. It was not something to satisfy the self-exhibitionism of the person giving the speech.

“Good luck.”

After her closing remarks, Mikami took a step back from the podium and saluted the new students.

Looking with satisfaction at Seina and the other freshmen who returned the salute, Mikami slowly lowered her hand and walked away from the podium.

“New Student Representative Greeting.”

Seiryo's voice made Seina swallow.

“Freshman Student Representative, Yamada Seina”

“Y-yes!”

Suddenly, a murmur arose in the venue.

“He's the one…”

The number of people involved was higher than usual, and most of them came to see Seina. Seina's selection as the representative was also a kind of advertising.

“Could a boy like that really bring about so much misfortune?” The commander of the central command center, who had nearly started a large-scale battle last night due to the Master Guard, muttered in shock.

“Yes. He is the young man who captured nearly 500 pirate ships, apprehended thousands of serious criminals, and captured Widow… He is the boy from Earth, Yamada Seina.” Mikami came up from the stage to the second floor audience seats and whispered.

However, despite having such an impressive resume, Seina himself was walking down the center aisle toward the stage, his face bright red and his body stiff with nervousness.

“Is Seina-kun going to be okay?” Rajau, who was short, stood on tiptoe to watch the whole thing.

“Failure is a good teacher.”

“That's true.”

“Seina-kun… do your best.” Kiriko, who seemed even more nervous than Seina, watched over him with her hands clenched tightly.

“Seina-chan, isn’t it?”

“At school, I'm a teacher and he's a student.”

“Typical Kiriko, you say good luck… But I thought you were against Seina joining the GP?”

“Damn… I never said do your best!

“Well, never mind. Good luck, Seina.”

(Dammit!) Kiriko glared at Amane with a frustrated expression.

“Seina-chan …… seems to be very nervous, Airi-sama.”

“Damn you! Back then…”

She glanced at Mitoto, “…If that idiot hadn't gotten in the way, we could have been alone and given each other advice, special tea, massages, and all sorts of other things…hehe. I could have done all sorts of things to ease his tension.” She said with blushing cheeks and immersed in a strange fantasy.

“Get up on the stage! Don’t hesitate!”

She heard Seiryo say this in a bossy voice from downstairs.

“You idiot!”

The unpleasant memory from earlier was brought back to Airi, who reflexively grabbed three spare chairs nearby and threw them at Seiryo's head with all her might.

“Gwah!!”

The chairs drew beautiful arcs like discus balls, and all three of them beautifully hit Seiryo's head.

“Ah, Airi-sama?”

“Hahahaha! Well done, well done!”

Next to a stunned Kiriko, Amane was clapping her hands and laughing. The laughter seemed to spread, as the whole venue erupted in laughter.

(Is there something wrong with me?)

Although he finally made it onto the stage, Seina was so nervous that he didn't have time to look at what was going on around him, and didn’t notice what happened to Seiryo, and was convinced that they were laughing at him.

Trying to calm himself down, he took a deep breath and bowed towards the auditorium, which was the signal for the laughter to die down.

“Haa.”

Taking a steadying breath, he stepped forward in front of the microphone, and turned his nervous face to the front of the room.

Everyone in the venue turned their attention to the boy, his cheeks flushed and nervous.

(……Ah!)

The pressure of that gaze was something Seina was familiar with. But what was crucially different from usual was that it wasn't the negative pressure of contempt, hatred, scorn, fear or curiosity, but something much warmer.

The atmosphere of Masaki's village, where there was no sense of alienation, was something that Seina found comfortable. His tension was instantly relieved.

“Oh… what a nice expression.” The Dorm Supervisor couldn't help but mutter when he saw Seina's big smile.

And this wasn't just his opinion, it was the opinion of everyone there, except for the fallen Seiryo.

—It's him… He is the man for my purposes!

Besides the captured criminals, others were casting purposeful, curious looks at Seina.

“Greetings new students! …… Huh?”

Seina took a deep breath and began to speak, but no sound came out of the speakers.

Tap, tap, he tapped the microphone, but it was still dead.

“Maybe it’s broken?”

But that was the effect of Seina's personal data from last night. Just as people began to notice something was wrong and started to stir, Seiryo woke up.

“Damn you, what's this on my head?”

The moment Seiryo shouted at the top of his lungs in anger, the volume control, which had been turned down, jumped above the maximum.

VVVOOHN!!!

A loud bang reverberated throughout the auditorium! The tremendous pressure of the sound hit everyone, and in the next moment, the giant speaker next to Seiryo exploded.

“Ahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!”

Seiryo, at the center of the sound and explosion pressure, was blasted outward over the heads of the students.

Thus, the 8635th GP Academy Entrance Ceremony came to a close.

Chapter Four: Classes, Teachers and Senior Students: Day 1

The freshmen were walking in three files, led by upperclassmen, down the long corridors that radiated out from the auditorium where the entrance ceremony was held.

“Haa… I'm sorry for causing trouble to everyone.” Seina muttered, ruminating on the commotion from earlier.

“That was quite a racket.”

An upperclassman guiding the new students to their classroom whispered to Seina and the others.

“I'm sorry. I messed up the entrance ceremony…”

“Oh man, it was a masterpiece! I'm sure it will go down in GP Academy history.”

The other senior student must have also been very keen to talk about the matter, as he took this opportunity to speak.

“But it seems like some people were carried away…”

“They just fainted, so it's fine. But as for the teacher who flew off in a big way…”

“Well, that teacher is fine.”

“Yeah, okay, okay!”

The two upperclassmen, who seemed to know the subject well, answered with confidence.

“Please refrain from unnecessary private conversations.”

At that moment, an upperclassman who had been chasing the line of freshmen shouted at them.

“Oh! That's…”

Pushing Seina aside, Kenneth leaned forward. The other freshmen all turned their attention to the senior student.

“Do you know her, Kenneth?”

“It's last year's Miss GP Academy, Miki Steinbeck!”

“Oh.”

With her brisk demeanor, clear voice, and beautiful long straight hair, Miki somehow reminded him of Kiriko.

“…Yamada Seina?” Suddenly, Miki turned to Seina and muttered.

“Y-yes… that's right.”

“……”

As Miki gazed upon Seina in silence, anger, anxiety, and a hint of desperation were successively expressed in her eyes.

“Wh-what?”

“What do you want?”

Kenneth and Rajau's questions were the questions of every student there.

There was something unusual about Miki… No, the unusual atmosphere between Seina and Miki caused waves of negative emotions such as doubt, confusion, and jealousy to arise in the students.

(Well, this is not good…)

It was clear to him that if he left things as they were, the waves of negative emotions would only grow stronger and turn into a tsunami that would crash down on me.

“Um, well…”

“Eh? Oh, sorry. Come on, hurry up and lead the underclassmen away!”

Miki noticed that the line had stopped, and her expression returned to normal. She gave instructions to the senior students in charge, and after glancing at Seina, she quickly left.

“Thank goodness… Oh, what was that?”

It seemed that the crisis had been averted, but contrary to Seina's wishes, the line was reluctant to move.

“What does that mean?”

“Oh come on, seriously?”

“Damn, that guy too.”

All around Seina, the conversation from last night in the dorms was being replayed exactly as it happened, with only the proper nouns changed.

“Kenneth, is this… going to be another

interview broadcast tonight?”

“Maybe.”

“Should I just charge for it?”

“That's great! Ha ha ha”

In the end, the line started moving again only after Miki came to warn them again.

Most of the buildings at the GP Academy were thousands or tens of thousands of years old, but as Seina and his friends walked forward, they came across a modern structure that shone a dull silver color.

“Somehow, that building is different from the others.”

“Oh, that's a building made from large shipping containers.”

“Large shipping containers?”

Seina was reminded of the huge containers he saw when he first came to the Academy.

“It looks amazing from the ground.”

“That's the building where the students' classrooms and study rooms are located.” An older student walking next to him said.

“This is still a medium-sized shipping container. Every few years, new classrooms are built using these containers, using usable parts from surplus items or items discarded due to accidents. That’s why this building is the only one that’s new.”

While listening to the explanation, the line of new students arrived at the main entrance of the building.

“Now, this is your classroom/study room.”

As he entered the building through the open entrance, he saw a large atrium in the center that reached all the way to the ceiling. On either side of it were facilities separated by simple partitions, giving the building an open feel.

“I have some important information to deliver, so please hurry to the box with your student number.”

“Senpai! The teleportation plate isn't working.” Elroy exclaimed curiously.

“Oh, it's true.”

Fingu, David, and the other students all looked at the plate curiously.

“The plate is currently out of service. Please take the stairs!”

“Huh!?”

Upon hearing their Senpai's words, everyone simultaneously looked up into the atrium.

“Hey Rajau… how many floors does it look like?”

“I guess it's about ten floors? The first floor is about twice as tall as a normal one, so…”

“… There are quite a few.”

Kenneth and the other two were looking up and talking in silly tones.

“And where's our room?”

“According to the signboard… it's on the tenth floor.”

It was a simple place, about six tatami mats in size, with three desks with terminals and lockers. There were no walls facing the corridor, so rather than a room, it was a space separated by a simple partition.

“The terminal format is the same as the one in the dorm.”

Kenneth and Rajau looked around calmly, while Seina slumped back in his chair, drenched in sweat.

“…I was thinking about this yesterday too… You two have a lot of stamina… I thought I had some confidence in myself, but…”

“Ah, well…”

“What's that? Hey, Kenneth.” Rajau exclaimed as he tried to start up the system.

“What’s up?”

“… My system won't start. How about yours, Kenneth?”

“Just wait a minute.” Kenneth pressed the power switch on his desk, but there was no response.

“Yeah, I got it.”

Before Seina could sit up, Kenneth pressed the switch on his desk, but there was no response.

“…It seems like neither mine nor Seina's work… So maybe…”

That's when Kenneth looked at Seina.

“Now that everyone has taken their places, I would like to give you an explanation.” The voices of the upperclassmen from earlier echoed throughout the building.

“As some of you may know, there is a large-scale network system outage throughout the Academy. Until it is fixed, all classes are cancelled, with the exception of a few courses. The schedule for tomorrow and beyond will be posted on the bulletin boards on each floor, so please check it out.”

“It was a system failure.”

As soon as Kenneth began to speak, a murmur arose all around.

“It wasn't your fault, Seina.”

“Ha ha ha. That hasn't been decided yet.”

“You really want to blame me… Kenneth.”

"Quiet! All of you will have a physical education class today, so after you change your clothes, please check the bulletin board for your location and hurry to the meeting place. That's all!"

“Oh dear, I thought I could rest.”

“It just makes things harder later. Let's hurry.”

As he watched Rajau stand up, Seina realized something important…

“So… We have to go back down again?”

In the center of the GP Academy was a central assembly building reminiscent of a European fortress, measuring 300 meters in length and width and 50 meters in height. At the end of a corridor extending from one side of the square was the principal's office where Mikami was.

“Oh my goodness. This good day has turned into a terrible day.”

In the back of the principal's office, which was about 100 tatami mats in size, Airi was drinking tea and complaining to Mikami.

“Ohohoho. That's typical of you.”

“This is no laughing matter! I've been up all night preparing for this day… Damn that fool. I should have just thrown him in jail.”

“The city management company and the Tennan family have come to an agreement. Even though the crew and students all escaped from the ship that crashed into the city foundation, it was empty. If it weren't for the casualties…”

“Assault on rescue workers, obstruction of justice!”

“That means submitting a written apology and having your pay cut for three months. Considering the scale of the commotion last night, an accident of that magnitude is a minor matter… after all.”

“Dammit!”

Clang. Airi set her cup down roughly on the saucer.

“He was used as a punching bag on my way to work, got run over by Amane, had a chair thrown at him, and then blasted into the air. Isn't that enough?”

“It’s not enough!” Airi declared with such conviction that Mikami sighed.

“Well, the Tennan family has a special exception, but we don't want too much public violence.”

“Ugh… I see. Well, I'm not happy about it, but I guess it’s fine for now.”

Even Airi couldn't stand up to Mikami, especially when she spoke the truth.

“But it was a blessing in disguise that very few people were injured in that explosion.”

“I'm sure dozens of people were carried away unconscious, right?”

“Yes, the medical system of the GP Academy is down, so we are examining them on our hospital ship. However, there are no visible injuries, so I think they’ll be okay. The biggest victim was Tennan-sensei.”

“He got what he deserved, he got what he deserved.”

“Also, the number of arrests at the entrance ceremony, including second-class wanted criminals and suspicious persons, was about 85.”

“…It's certainly nothing compared to the commotion that occurred yesterday. But it's still surprising that some idiot would show up at a GP entrance ceremony, especially when there were so many from the Criminal Investigation Division there.”

“The Criminal Investigation Division must have mixed feelings… Even though they know that there's nothing better than catching the bad guys…”

“Seina's existence is a double-edged sword, but that doesn't mean crime and criminals have disappeared. You need to get your head around that…”

“Have you reset you mind?

She was talking about Widow.

“…Yes, it feels like I've been freed from all the shackles.” She said with a big stretch.

“Hohoho, so that's why you went on a rampage against Seina.”

“I was interrupted by the cleaning lady from your house.” She glared at Mikami with a resentful look on her face.

“Oh, isn't it more fun with a few obstacles?”

“That's right. I've finally found this talent, so I need to enjoy it more.”

If Seina heard that story, he'd probably run away from the Academy.

“Yeah. Speaking of issues, what's the status of the new system?”

“We have been prioritizing work related to the Kuramitsu family and the intelligence department, and all work has been completed. As for the rest of the military, all work is expected to be completed within a week.”

Mikami said in a low voice, “…Moving leaves a lot of hidden dust behind, and cleaning is a lot of work.”

“Yeah… me too. I guess it's a case of turning a disaster into a blessing.”

“But when did this system get installed?”

“It appears to have been installed before Washu-sama went missing.”

“Five thousand years ago? But our systems engineer was surprised.”

“Well, that foresight… Or rather, your overwhelming technical ability is just incredible. Seriously…I've lost all confidence in my ability to continue as a philosopher.”

Airi leaned back in her chair and began speaking normally again.

“But if this is to be used as the main system, what about the issue of rights distribution in the system specifications? Even if it is Washu-sama, this is going to be difficult.”

"Ha! If you make Hakubi Washu and Akara Naja your enemies, half the products in the world will not be able to be manufactured."

“I see… that's amazing.” Even Mikami seemed surprised.

“Well, the biggest problem was the release of the rights to Dr. Clay.”

“Dr. Clay? Excuse me.”

At that moment, a call came in and Mikami headed to the principal's desk.

“Hello, this is Mikami… Huh?”

Upon receiving the call, the smile disappeared from Mikami's face, and it gradually became tense.

“…I see. I understand. Then, in ten minutes.”

“What's wrong?” Airi called out to Mikami who had hung up the phone.

“I'm sorry, Airi-sama, but you must come with me.”

“Understood.”

Without asking any further questions, Airi drank the rest of her tea and stood up.

On the bridge of Mikagami, the ladies-in-waiting and Minaho were looking at Seto in astonishment. However, Seto paid no attention to their gazes and was lying on the large sofa-like throne, laughing like an idiot as she repeatedly watched the video sent by Hakuren and the others.

“Ahhhhahahaha~!”

“Seto-sama… in front of your subordinates.” Minaho felt that she had to stop her, so she demurely warned her out of respect for her subordinates.

“Why? Isn't that awesome?”

“Both Hakuren and Suiren got injured because of this shoot.”

“Pfft, that was bad luck… hehehe, and there's even a scene showing her getting caught in the explosion.”

Seto pointed to a clear view of Seiryo flying past Hakuren, who was enduring the blast, and Suiren, distracted by it, was hit by a branch she was holding, which broke.

“That's inevitable, isn't it?” Seto shook her head and muttered to herself.

Even Seto had no confidence that she could avoid a direct hit from Suiren, who had no presence whatsoever.

“Hehe… Well, they both ended up with just a few bumps…”

“It is disrespectful to laugh at the misfortune of a subordinate. Moreover, this happened because of Seto's personal hobby.”

“Ehh, because…”

“It's not cute if you do that.”

“That's why you get rejected everywhere you go.”

That was the most taboo topic for Minaho.

“The biggest reason is that I am Seto-sama's adjutant!”

“Kanemitsu's child was a girl.”

Seto accidentally gave her an unnecessary push. The veins in her temples popped out and Minaho's expression became strained.

“…From now on, secretly taking photos of Seina is prohibited.”

“What?! That's terrible.”

“Which one is worse? Karen has also reported that we made poor choices.”

“I'll introduce you to a great guy… Okay?”

“No need for that. I'll be extremely busy investigating all the pirates and criminals we've caught in connection with Seina for the time being.”

“So sometimes it's good to have a change of pace…”

“If you want to take candid photos, please do it yourself during your free time.”

“I-I get it. Hmm… that might be fun…”

Just as the battle with Seto was about to end with Minaho's victory, she overheard the operators whispering to each other.

“Hey, what does it matter that Kanemitsu's child is a girl?”

“You see, it seems that there was a promise between Yuzaki-sama and Minaho-sama that if the baby was a boy, he would become her husband.”

“With Kanemitsu's wife? Wow. That's kind of cute.”

“Mm-hmm.”

The operators were twisting their bodies as if they had itchy backs, and spoke with hushed voices and gleeful expressions on their faces.

“Stop eavesdropping and get to work!” Minaho shouted.

The operators quietly and silently returned to their posts, as if they were watching a film playing in reverse.

“Huh…?”

When she turned back to Seto, she had looked away from Minaho, her hands were clenched tightly, and she was holding back what she wanted to say. However, even though she thought she was holding back, it was obvious that she was saying it.

(…Well, I guess Seto-sama is trying hers best not to upset me and make things worse.)

However, although this may have been a roundabout way of saying it was bad, Minaho also thought that continuing the relationship would be a waste of time.

“Seto-sama… Mikagami-sama is being influenced by your stupid laughter.”

This was a declaration of an end, so to speak.

“Oh… really?” She looked towards the Mikagami tree behind the throne.

Rays of light emanated erratically from the leaves, like a puppy going wild with delight after being played with by its owner.

“It has some impact on the system.”

“Hmm.” She straightened her posture and breathed a big sigh.

“Mikagami-chan, let's watch it again when we're done with work.”

The flurry of light stopped as Seto spoke.

“Oh, yeah, I'll have to show her this record.”

“Here? Who is she?”

“By all rights, this should be to Seina's parents, but there is one other person who cares about him, right?”

“Could it be… Tsukiko-chan?”

“There's something I want to talk to her about, so please have her come to Mikagami.”

Seto nodded in satisfaction at Minaho's answer.

“I understand.”

Although not limited to the GP Academy, the old buildings at the Academy have been preserved and used without being demolished. Therefore, almost all teachers had their own rooms.

Kiriko and Amane, who became instructors on short notice, were also given a teacher's lounge as large as a regular classroom, albeit a double room.

Kiriko was considering rearranging the curriculum schedule due to the recent system trouble.

“…The curriculum schedule for freshman seems like something you can easily catch up on in just six months.”

While saving the data she created, she suddenly looked over at Amane.

She was supposed to be checking the students' physical abilities, but the screen was just scrolling by at a furious pace, and Amane seemed absent-minded and had a gleeful grin on

her face.

“What's happening, is there something interesting?”

She looked so happy that Kiriko couldn't help but call out to her.

“Heh heh. That idiot's repair nanomachines went haywire during the sound equipment explosion earlier, and he was wrapped up in bandages and staggering around.”

“That idiot…are you talking about Tennan-sensei?”

“Who else is there?”

"I'm appalled. You haven't even check the student's data, and that's what you’re thinking? But what do you mean his nanomachines went haywire?"

The nanomachines that repaired the body provide multiple layers of protection, and unless the body was instantly annihilated, there was no way that it would be damaged at all. This was especially true for cyborgs like Seiryo, who were made up of specialized nanomachines.

“It's called natural vibration resonance.”

“What the hell?! That's impossible…”

It would be possilbe if the explosion was the result of Seina's bad luck.

“Haha, it seems like he got beaten pretty badly, so I don't think he'll be able to move properly today.”

“Amane… It's not nice to laugh at other people's misfortune.”

“It's because he's been bad. He won't bother me for a while… So I might as well finish him off while the nanomachines are still malfunctioning…” She gripped a large handgun, wondering where it came from, and stared at it with emotionless eyes.

“Really…”

“The bigger problem may be Seina.”

“Huh? What does that mean…?”

At that moment, Kiriko heard a call. Though she was concerned about what Amane said, she quickly headed to the communication terminal.

“Masaki-sensei, the principal would like to see you. Please come to conference room 822.”

“Okay then. I'll leave it to you.”

After telling Amane that, she quickly left the room.

The field was about a kilometer in circumference, and the male freshmen were gathered there in their PE uniforms. It was quite large, but it was still one of the smallest among the 30 grounds at the GP Academy.

Seina was quite tired just from running down the ten flights of stairs and then to this field at the far end of the property.

“Haa……”

The sweat that had been pouring down like a waterfall earlier finally subsided thanks to the cool breeze coming off the ocean.

“It's time, everyone line up!”

The older student who had been guiding Seina and the others earlier, presumably acting as a teacher's assistant, gave the command.

A large air car slowly came to a halt in front of the students. It looked like a black luxury car, but with van-type doors. The rear doors went all the way to the ceiling and could be opened like double doors.

“Salute!”

At that signal a figure rose solemnly from the car.

“Ah.”

Seina couldn't help but cry out, and at the same time, a murmur arose among the students.

There stood Seiryo, wrapped up in bandages like a mummy.

“Quiet! Tennan Seiryo-sensei is going to speak now!”

As the upperclassmen spoke, the murmuring among the students gradually died down, and then Seiryo began to speak.

“Gentlemen! You may be surprised that classes are starting so soon after the entrance ceremony. However, you are all gathered here to become GP members who will support the foundation of people's lives! There is a lot you must learn before you graduate, and you cannot afford to waste time! As you may have already heard, there was a computer problem today… all programs except for the physical educations classes have been canceled!”

Seiryo's angry eyes had been directed at Seina for a while now, and his loud voice sounded like a roar directed at Seina.

“So, today we will be doing some basic physical training!”

“…He’s really glaring at you…”

“It wasn't my fault.”

Although he said that, considering his own characteristics, he had no confidence at all that he could deny it.

(Could it be…after all?)

Seiryo stepped down from the platform and began to walk among the lined up students, dragging one foot slightly.

“So, instead of warming up, I want you to do 20 laps around the field, 100 push-ups, and 100 sit-ups. That counts as one set, and I want you to do five sets of that!”

It was as if he was trying to intimidate the students.

“Huh!”

A cry of dissatisfaction rose up from the students all at once.

“Quiet!… Well, you guys are all excellent, so this much is no problem for you to do before you even have to warm up! I believe you will be able to complete it without any problems!”

Then Seiryo stopped next to Seina.

He leaned closer to Seina and said sarcastically. “Yes, if you guys are talented then you should…!”

“……”

Seiryo grinned with satisfaction at Seina's uncertain look.

“Now, everyone turn right!”

With Seiryo's command, the students turned to the right. After confirming this, Seiryo raised his sonic gun and fired into the sky.

Bang! With a dry sound, the students all took off running.

“Huh?”

Seina started running as he normally would, but suddenly realized that there was no one around him.

“What!?”

The group of other students was running far ahead of Seina at an incredible speed, so fast it seemed as if they were riding motorbikes.

“Hurry up, don't dawdle!”

“Y-Yes!”

As if pushed by Seiryo's angry roar, Seina increased his speed, but in no time he was caught up and overtaken by the group of students who had circled around him.

“Ah, that's amazing…”

Seina watched in amazement.

Kiriko was called to Conference Room 822, which was in a large trailer. However, the conference room trailer was not in the parking lot where it was usually parked.

“That's strange. This should definitely be the place… Ah, what about this?”

Looking around, Kiriko spotted a large trailer truck descending from the sky.

The trailer landed slowly and silently into its designated location. The back of the container opened, and Mikami climbed out.

“Sorry I'm late. Come on in.”

“Excuse me.”

Following Mikami, she entered the container where there were many computers lined up, making it look like a small server room.

“Masaki-sensei, the reason I asked you to come today is because we have a good idea of how the Academy’s main system can be restored, and I would like you to make some adjustments to the GP Academy system that will be connected to it.”

“The main one?! But I heard that you were going to build a new unified system.”

“We decided to use the system that Washu-sama had previously installed.”

“Washu-sama's?”

“Maybe it's easier to understand if I say it's a generic version of the one used by Seto-sama?”

“And you're doing that with the Academy’s system? That's amazing. It will dramatically expand the versatility of the app.”

“That's right. This is all thanks to Seina.”

Kiriko's expression clouded over upon hearing Mikami's words.

“But don't you have a dedicated system engineer?”

Kiriko realized that her silence was causing the conversation to stagnate, so she quickly changed the topic. However, Mikami looked away from Kiriko and remained silent with a difficult look on her face.

“……Um, what is it?”

“Well, I'll tell you something. The truth is…”

After saying that, she looked Kiriko in the eye and began to speak.

“I was late getting here because I was on the Kuramitsu family medical ship.”

“…Could they be some of the people who were injured at the entrance ceremony?”

“Yeah, but thankfully… heh.”

She gave a self-deprecating, sarcastic smile and continued her story.

“Thankfully, none of them sustained any injuries, they just lost consciousness…”

“Huh? What?”

Although Mikami said it was fortunate, Kiriko felt something was off about her as she had a gloomy expression on her face.

“By the way, did you hear that Tennan-sensei's nanite body was damaged in the explosion?”

“Yes. … From Amane.”

Remembering Amane's silly laugh, Mikami gave a wry smile as she looked at Kiriko, who had a disgruntled look on her face.

“The cause was damage caused by natural vibration… The same thing happened to the people who collapsed at today's entrance ceremony.”

“No way!”

Losing consciousness without any abnormalities in the body meant that the cause was in the brain.

"Everyone had their brains modified to form specific memories under certain conditions."

For example, it was like a shape memory alloy that returned to its memorized shape when heated, no matter how it was deformed.

“However, it seems that his body was simply cloned through accelerated cultivation… Perhaps his body was severely damaged when he was captured… or…”

“But is this brain modification similar to what happened with Mihoshi?”

She saw a report about Mihoshi before, in which a similar spy was sent into the GP Army, and a gunfight broke out between the spy and Mihoshi.

What happened after that wasn't mentioned in the report, and Kiriko didn't think to find out until she asked Mikami. However, after being hospitalized, Mihoshi left the military and

joined the GP Academy, and was currently stationed on Earth and living with the Masaki family.

“Yes, we are currently investigating that possibility. Anyway, it seems that the explosion that destroyed Tennan-sensei's nanomachines, which were heavily protected, triggered something to form memories, but at the same time contained something that destroyed them. A systems engineer was among those who were transported.”

“And those people?”

“They quickly regained consciousness and returned to their respective places, under supervision.”

“Okay, so what do you want me to do?”

A new crisis was upon the GP Academy. Kiriko's face suddenly become tense. However…

“First of all, could you please take a look at the school lunch preparation system?”

“Huh?”

“Hohoho, otherwise no one will be able to eat lunch. Next is the container classroom. I will give instructions later.”

“Uh, yeah…”

Kiriko, who had been full of energy, suddenly felt the strength leave her body.

About two hours after Seina started class, the sound of the bell rang out across the school grounds as he collapsed on the ground, alone, separated from the other students who were lining up.

“You all lived up to my expectations!”

With a satisfied look on his face, Seiryo crossed the line of students and walked slowly towards Seina.

“I am very happy to see that you are much better students than I expected!”

He stopped in front of Seina and looked down at him with a mixture of satisfaction and disdain.

“……”

When Seina looked at him with a vacant gaze of extreme fatigue, Seiryo twisted the corners of his mouth into a grin.

“Okay, then, this concludes the morning classes. Anyone who wasn't able to complete the program should think carefully about what they should do! The afternoon classes will also

consist of basic physical training. Everyone, gather here on time!”

Seiryo turned to the students with a grin on his face and gave the command. “Well then, you may go!”

“…Um, instructor, Seina hasn't undergone Bio-Enhancement yet.” Kenneth said as he ran over to Seiryo, stood at attention.

“So what?”

“I don't think he can do the same program as us.”

“At this very moment, many crimes are being committed in space. The GP Academy must send personnel to the scene as quickly as possible. This is the place where we select people who can be used as GPs. Remember that!”

However, due to the force of his words, when Seiryo tried to walk away as usual, his feet got tangled and he nearly fell over.

“Whoa!”

He just about managed to regain his balance, but then he tripped over Seina, who was lying at his feet.

Seiryo began to roll with great force and was thrown high into the air by the car that had just arrived to pick him up.

All the students applauded as Seiryo rolled off like a ball.

Seina was carried by Kenneth and they somehow managed to make it to the container classroom study room.

Seina collapsed into his chair, looking like clothes draped over a chair.

“It's good that we can now use the tranfer port.”

A little later, Rajau came in carrying a case that looked like a pouch.

“Well, only within this building, though. We can’t communicate with the outside world, so we can’t have classes yet, and in the afternoon we’ll be doing basic physical training again.”

“Even with bio-enhancement, it's still a pretty tough workout,” Kenneth replied with a disgusted look on his face.

“Let's eat. We can't take it easy, considering the travel time.” Rajau took out a packed lunch from his lunchbox that had been distributed at the first floor entrance.

“Yeah… hey Seina, can you eat this?”

“…I feel like throwing up…” He answered in a murmur with his eyes closed.

“They had a drink type of high permeability food, so I got some.”

He handed Seina a large, silver, cylindrical water bottle that looked like it could hold at least a liter.

When he removed the cap, a straw-like object popped out. Seina put it in his mouth and timidly took a suck.

“How is it?”

“…… Yeah…… It's great. It has almost no flavor so it's easy to drink.”

The water inside was slightly cooler than body temperature. Its slight sweetness and minty scent seeped into his body, loosening up his stiff internal organs.

“Whew…” He let out a comfortable sigh, like when he got into a bath.

Perhaps the first bite had stirred up his internal organs, as Seina suddenly felt hungry and drank the entire water bottle in one gulp.

“If we could use the infirmary, we could use accelerated treatment and nanomachines to fully recover in time for the afternoon classes… but in any case, please rest as long as possible.”

“Wouldn't it be better to rest there rather than leaving at the last minute?”

“Oh, that's true, let's hurry then.”

“You two can just take your time and eat.” He said and quickly tried to stand up.

“Thank you for the meal.”

Kenneth and Rajau quickly finished their lunches and began drinking from a water bottle that was a size smaller than Seina's.

“Okay, let's go!”

They grabbed Seina on both sides and stood up quickly.

“Hey boys. Do you want a ride?”

As the boys left the school building, an elderly man called out to them.

“Huh?”

“My idiot caused you a lot of trouble, didn’t he?”

The car behind the man was the same one that had been driving Seiryo to and from work earlier.

“Ah, this is the person who knocked the teacher over earlier…”

“Even though he was the one who knocked him away, the old man slapped him back and forth with great force, saying, 'Don't jump out like that, you idiot!'“

Kenneth and Rajau pointed at the man at the same time.

“That kid has always been a troublemaker, and no matter how many times people tell him off, he never listens.” The man complained with a sullen look on his face.

“…But still, isn't it a bit excessive to hit a teacher who's been injured and is exhausted?”

“That idiot has no learning ability, so doing things like that won’t have much effect. Let’s hurry up, okay?” The man opened the back door and forced the three of them in.

“Um… are you a family member or something?” Seina asked timidly as the man sat in the driver's seat.

“No, I'm a servant,” the man said nonchalantly as he started the car.

“…I see.”

“Of course, your employer is his father.”

“Are you sure it's okay to do that to your employer's kid?”

“If he does something stupid, I'll hit him in front of his father. But even his father does stupid things sometimes.” He clenched one hand and made a fist.

(At that time… You'll hit him, I guess.)

“That idiot hasn't improved at all since he was a kid. Just yesterday, he took the Tennan family's private battleship without telling me, injured people, destroyed the city foundations, and did some other ridiculous things…”

Even through his suit, you could see the veins bulging in his hands as he gripped the steering wheel and the muscles in his shoulders bulged.

“That's tough.”

The man's anger made Seina and the boys feel for a moment like they were in a tiger's cage.

"I don't mind if it's a hassle for me… Here we are."

The car came to a halt next to the field.

With a light movement, he got out and opened the rear door.

“Thank you very much. It was a great help.”

“This is my apology for the trouble that idiot caused. …Hey boy, he may be an idiot, but the skills he possesses are top notch. So even though it will be a nuisance, please bear with him.”

With that, the man got back in the car and drove off.

“That person… he's no ordinary person.”

“Even though he's just a servant, he has such an arrogant attitude.”

"No. That man was a gruff talker, but his driving was wonderful and smooth."

“Come to think of it…”

Even taking into account the car's performance, Seina remembered that it was less uncomfortable than any other vehicle he had ever ridden in.

“Come on, let's take a rest on the bank over there. Thanks to that person, we've saved ourselves some travel time.”

Seina and the boys lay down on the grass on the bank next to the field where they were meeting and began basking in the sun.

“But Seina has a lot of stamina. Normally, someone without bio-enhancement wouldn't be able to keep up with his level of physical activity.”

“Really? But I couldn't even complete half of it…”

“Don't worry. With Bio-Enhancement, you'll be able to keep up with us easily.”

“…Hey, where can I get Bio-Enhancement?” Seina turned to Rajau curiously.

"It was originally decided that everyone would get it, so I'm sure you'll be notified soon. Maybe there's a delay because of some trouble with the system."

“But Kenneth, Rajau and the others have already taken it, right?”

Seina anxiously tried to sit up, but Rajau stopped him.

“In recent years, the number of people wanting to enter the GP Academy has increased, so even local branches have started to provide Bio-Enhancement before enrollment.”

“It's rare, though, like this year, when most of the guys have already completed it.”

Kenneth, who had been lying down, sat up.

“That's right”

“Well, we'll just have to be patient until then.”

“Yeah.”

Seina closed his eyes in relief.

“Warm……”

Seina felt like the smell of the grass and the warmth of the sun were filling him with energy. Even though the stars were different, the smell of the earth and the smell of the grass were the same. That made him feel very happy and relieved.

“Hey Kenneth, maybe we should have had lunch here instead.”

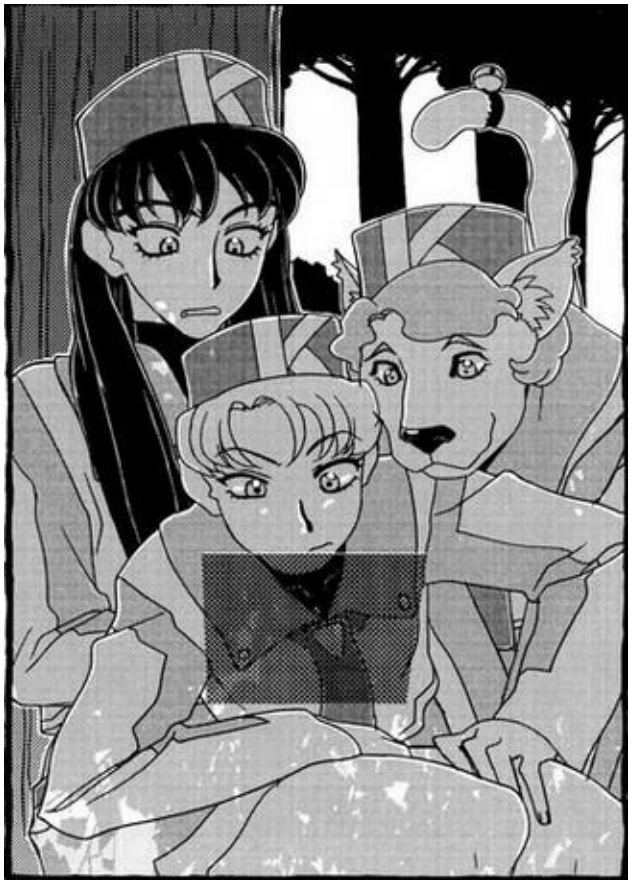
“Yeah, it looks like it would be nice on a sunny day.”

Kenneth then looked around.

In fact, there were many trees planted around the grounds, and there were many benches where students could be seen eating and playing.

Kenneth didn't notice, but some of the students were looking at Seina.

“…ki, Miki! Are you listening?”



“Huh!?”

Hearing her friend's voice, she quickly looked from Seina and the boys to her friend.

Miki's team of three loved to eat their meals on a bench in a wooded area near the school building.

“Oh, sorry. What were we talking about?”

“Just like what Miki was doing earlier.”

“Huh?”

“She was staring at that Yamada Seina. The male fans are in an uproar.”

“So what did you see this time?”

One of her friends projected an image of the direction Miki was looking and enlarged it.

“Hey, stop that!”

Before Miki could stop her, the image showed Seina and the other boys.

“These are the kids who came in today.”

“Oh, my, my… isn't that young man sleeping over there the aforementioned Yamada Seina? Has Miki finally become interested in a man other than her father?”

She sounded like an old-fashioned detective.

“It’s not like that! He’s a bit of a celebrity, I’m just a interested.”

“Miki has never been interested in celebrities.”

“But that boy is certainly no ordinary celebrity. Moreover, he is from the legendary uncivilized planet where the current First Empress of the Jurai Imperial Family, Funaho-sama, is from…”

“Speaking of probability bias, there's the Kuramitsu family. Isn't this comparable to that? So maybe that guy…”

At that moment, the bell signaling the end of lunch break interrupted their conversation.

“Hey, what are we doing today? There are no classes this afternoon, so why don't we go back to the dorm and go into town?”

Her friends stood up with their empty lunch boxes, but Miki remained seated on the bench.

“Sorry. I have some documents I need to organize.”

"This is getting a bit boring." One of her friends crossed her arms and puffed out her cheeks.

“My practical training is coming up soon. I want to check out each department.”

“It's great to be an honor student. You can choose your favorite department.”

“I always say that academic performance is like savings…”

“The more you have, the more you can choose.” Miki's friends completed her saying.

"We're sick of hearing it. And all we can do now is pray!"

The two friends put their hands together and took a praying pose, as if they were in a stage play. The beautiful sunlight filtering through the trees and illuminating them was like a religious painting.

“I hope the aptitude test results will put me in the running for the job I want…”

“Good grief…”

Although Miki was astonished by the content of the prayer, she was a bit moved by the beautiful sight.

“More importantly, why don't you try and change your mood for a change? I was really surprised when you suddenly collapsed at the entrance ceremony.”

“I heard a loud noise nearby. I was just shocked.”

“Well, I guess there's nothing to worry about since she woke up right away.”

“I won’t push myself. I’m just going to relax here today.”

“Don't get excited looking at cute juniors.”

“Hey!”

“Kyaa!”

The two of them ran away with exaggerated poses, as if to escape from Miki's raised fist.

“Hey, if you're staying here, do you want me to take your lunch box?”

“…Then, please do.”

“Roger that.”

After receiving the case from Miki, the girls walked together toward the school building.

After watching the two of them go into the distance for a while, she turned back towards the field, where the freshmen were starting to line up.

“Line up!”

As in the morning, the older students gave the command and the rear doors of the large air car opened.

“Salute!”

At the signal of the students' salute, Seiryo, wrapped in bandages like a mummy, rose up from the back seat of the car. What was different from the morning was that Seiryo's body was wrapped in something transparent.

“What is that…around the teacher?”

“That's a Guardian energy force field. It's a kind of powered suit, but it can also be used as a cast for disabled or injured people.”

“He should just go to bed quietly, don't come out here wearing something like that.” Kenneth muttered and the other students nodded in agreement.

“But he’s very enthusiastic.”

“What a carefree thing to say…even if the driving force behind his enthusiasm is Seina?”

As Kenneth said,

“So, for warm-up purposes, do twenty laps around the field, one hundred push-ups, and one hundred sit-ups. That’s ten sets!”

Then, Seiryo stumbled down from the platform with awkward steps and came straight up to Seina.

“Well, you guys are all excellent, so this is enough for you to warm up! I believe you will be able to complete it without any problems!”

He couldn't seem to put any strength into his body, and was swaying like a feeble old man, but he still glared at Seina with a sharp gaze.

“Now, everyone turn right!”

With Seiryo's command, the students turned to the right. After confirming this, Seiryo raised his sonic gun and fired into the sky.

About two hours after the start of afternoon classes, around the time Seina was collapsed on the ground, Kiriko, who had just finished work, was walking down the school hallway with a view of the school grounds.

“…Amane?”

In front of Kiriko was Amane, with her arms crossed, glaring intently at the field.

“What are you doing…”

Kiriko noticed Amane's glaring expression and followed her gaze.

“…Seina-chan…what is this!?”

Even from a distance, Kiriko immediately realized that it was Seina lying on the ground and what the situation was.

(The people over there are all the freshman boys. So, just before noon Amane said, “The problem is with Seina”…)

She noticed that all of the freshmen this year had completed basic bio-enhancement. Seina was the only one who had not undergone bio-enhancement.

Kiriko put on a stern expression and started to head towards Seina, but her steps immediately stopped.

(That's right… this is fine. Even if he had Bio-Enhancement, thinking about what happened last night and with the pirates, it would still be the same as the current situation. Seina-chan would have to fight in such a disadvantageous situation…) Kiriko clenched her fists and resisted the urge to run over to Seina.

The bell rang to signal the end of afternoon classes, and the students lined up in front of Seiryo.

“Okay, that's it for today! Anyone who hasn't finished the program, stay here.”

Upon hearing Seiryo's words, the students started to walk towards the school building, but almost all of them stopped, curious about Seina.

“What's wrong? Go back as soon as you’re done with class!”

“Teacher, Seina still hasn’t had Bio-Enhancement…”

“I told you that it is not your place to interfere! Now get out of here!”

Interrupting Kenneth, Seiryo turned to Seina again, waving his hands to dismiss the students.

“Every year, some students drop out. But that's not quitting. It's searching for a new path. Everyone has their own path. Sometimes you need the courage to admit your mistakes and turn back. I believe! You too can be a hero!”

Seiryo stood next to Seina and began to speak forcefully towards the sky.

(In guess that means… I should quit.)

Few people would be so facetious and sarcastic, but for Seina, this level of sarcasm was an everyday occurrence. Sadly, he was used to such things.

(As long as I get Bio-Enhancement, I can keep up…)

“Hey! Are you even listening?”

Just as he was about to look over at Seiryo who was yelling,

“Ah…”

Seina noticed Kiriko looking at him from the school hallway, far ahead of Seiryo.

(Kiriko-san!?)

Though it was a quite a distance, Seina had no trouble recognizing that it was Kiriko, and she was clearly wearing a teacher's uniform.

(But why a teacher's uniform? I'm sure yesterday…!!)

—Seina, please go back to Earth—

Suddenly, Kiriko's words from yesterday come back to him.

(…!)

And Seina was stunned.

He didn't care why Kiriko was wearing the uniform of a teacher from the GP Academy. What was more important was why Kiriko was “just standing there watching.”

Forcing the current curriculum on someone who hadn't undergone bio-enhancement was going too far no matter how you looked at it. But even if Kiriko was against Seina joining the GP, if the training was really unreasonable, she'd definitely complain.

But Kiriko didn't move from that spot.

(…I see… It's me…)

Seina realized that he had been being selfish in thinking that “all that matters is bio-enhancement.”

If he were to rely on bio-enhancement and become dependent on it, Kiriko would never approve. And above all, if he were to rely on something that didn't exist, Seina himself would only become a victim of his bad luck.

(Even though I've been through so many horrible things since I was a kid)

Seina took a deep breath and forced his trembling limbs to their limits. Despite the pain, he pushed himself up.

“Kiriko, why don't you tell him to do his best?”

Amane walked up to Kiriko and called out to her, but Kiriko just remained silent and stared at Seina.

Amane sighed softly and stood next to Kiriko, continuing to talk as if to herself.

“He's such a jerk… He knows he hasn’t had bio-enhancement and yet he still makes him do it.”

“…GP is a dangerous job. You've always had bad luck, Seina… You need more strength than the average person to do it.”

Kiriko spoke in a monotone voice with a blank expression on her face. But it also sounded as if she was talking to herself.

“Hmm, well, as soon as the computer problem is fixed, let's get started on his Bio-Enhancement…”

“I have no intention of admitting it.”

Interrupting Amane.

“Geez…”

Amane looked at Seina again, stunned by her stubbornness.

“Whoa, he’s up! You're doing great!”

“……”

“Oh no, he got hit by a bird dropping bomb. Hahaha, how unlucky.”

“Damn it! Seina-chan is a good boy and tries his best. It's rude of you to laugh at him!”

When Seina was laughed at, Kiriko's impudence was quickly broken. Finally, unable to bear it any longer, she raised her voice.

“So just tell him honestly, ‘Do your best’.“

“Ugh!”

Kiriko blushed and bowed her head when she spoke to her like she was scolding a spoiled child.

“Even so, even without bio-enhancements, Seina's strength should have been beyond his limit by now… He's got some real guts.”

“Of course. Mental toughness is a discipline.”

Kiriko's words were proud, but also somewhat sad. This was because the way he was trained was a kind of coercion in the name of persecution.

“!?”

Suddenly, Kiriko looked away from Seina and noticed a female student in the grove below staring at him.

“Who is that girl…?”

“Miki Steinbeck… last year's Miss GP Academy. She’s been there since the start of the afternoon classes.”

“That long!?”

“Well, Seina is a celebrity now.”

“…What does she want?”

“What?”

“Huh?! Ah!” Kiriko's expression stiffened as she realized she had said it out loud without thinking.

“Haha. She’s just curious, right?”

An hour later, the school bell started to ring, signaling dismissal, and as if waiting for that, a car came to pick Seiryo.

“Hmm, it's already this time. That's all for today.”

With these words, Seina collapsed to the ground.

“Yamada Seina! Take some time to contemplate your own powerlessness tonight. Ha ha ha ha!”

After yelling at Seina, Seiryo must have been in a good mood, so he tried to skip to the car that was coming to pick him up. However, his body had not recovered enough to skip, and as expected, he got tangled up and crashed into the hood of the car.

Naturally, the Tennan family's car was equipped with various defense mechanisms, as they were a financial conglomerate. These defense mechanisms had judged Seiryo's charge to be a terrorist attack, and had activated an anti-energy shield to counter the impact. Unfortunately, the Guardian Seiryo was using was a low-quality one he had hastily borrowed from the infirmary, and the car's anti-systems easily neutralized its functions.

Bang, clang!

With a loud bass bang, Seiryo received tremendous damage and collapsed, losing consciousness.

“Tch… how many times do I have to tell you not to cause trouble?”

The driver clicked his tongue and came out looking like he didn't want to bother, picked up Seiryo, who was as limp as a washed up jellyfish, and carelessly tossed him into the back seat.

“Haa……” Released from Seiryo's pressure, Seina took a deep breath.

“Pfft…… Hahaha…… as usual, that old driver.” Amane leaned against a pillar and burst out laughing.

“Well, looks like they're done with class for the day.”

Taking a deep breath, Amane stood up and headed for the stairs, looking at Seina. However, Amane's progress soon came to a halt.

“Hmm? You're not going?”

Kiriko, who have been on her way to Seina, remained where she was.

“……”

Kiriko clenched her fists tightly, ignoring Amane's question, and continued glaring at Seina.

“Oh dear. If you're too stubborn, someone else will get there first.”

“I'm not stubborn at all… who is that?”

As expected, Kiriko's expression softened and she turned to Amane, as if her words had bothered her.

“Look, over there.”

Amane pointed to Miki, who was walking towards Seina.

“Kenneth! Hey!”

Like Amane and the others, Rajau and the others were watching Seina and also noticed Miki approaching him.

“Now it's Miki-senpai… Seina sure is popular.”

“Well, he's a celebrity.”

“Hmph… but we are his friends and teammates.”

“I see, that's true.”

Telepathy. Rajau grinned, realizing what Kenneth was trying to say.

Seina closed his eyes and lay sprawled out on the ground, enjoying the pleasant breeze.

His heavy breathing had steadied and the sweating had started to subside, but he still had absolutely no strength in his body and if he tried to exert himself too much he would likely go into convulsions.

(I'm starting to feel sleepy… Huh?)

Just as he was about to doze off, Seina heard footsteps approaching.

(Kenneth and Rajau? But there's only one set of footsteps.)

As he was absentmindedly thinking about this, a voice suddenly called out.

“Are you okay?”

“Eh… Kiriko-san?”

Hearing that voice, he hastily tried to sit up, but he couldn't put any strength into his body. He raised his back slightly and turned towards the source of the voice.

“Kiriko?”

Miki looked at Seina with a puzzled expression, and when she noticed that Seina was in an uncomfortable position, she slowly moved to a position where he could see her better.

“Oh… No, sorry… My mistake.”

Seina recognized Miki's face as she moved from the backlight to the frontlight and realized it was the senior student he had met on the way to the classroom. If he listened carefully, he noticed that her voice was different from Kiriko's, but Seina mistook her for Kiriko… or rather, he hoped that it was her.

“Ouch!”

As Seina tried to get up, a sharp pain ran through his body.

“It looks like you were pretty badly beaten.”

Miki crouched down in front of Seina, who had somehow managed to sit up, and took out a handkerchief from her pocket.

“Oh no, it'll get dirty.”

Seina pulled his face away from Miki's hand as she tried to wipe his face.

“What are you talking about? This is for wiping off the dirt.”

Miki put one hand on Seina's head a little roughly and pulled him towards her, then started wiping Seina's face, which was now covered in sweat and dirt, a little too vigorously.

“Now, don't move!” She said sharply.

“Ah, yes.” Seina froze, still with tension at her voice.

“…You can breathe.”

“Y-Yes.”

Seina felt as if he had gone back five years in time.

(She really does look like Kiriko)

Small gestures, her tone of voice, the sparkle in her eyes – it wasn’t just her outward appearance that were similar, but the inner aspects were similar as well.

“Excuse me.”

“I'm the one who should apologize… I'm sorry about that time.”

Miki's hands stopped moving and her expression softened. Her face went from that of a senior student to that of an older sister.

“Eh, that time?”

“The entrance ceremony had ended and we were on our way. Sorry for staring at you.”

“I don't mind if that's the case. It happens all the time. ……”

“You're a celebrity, aren't you?” Miki smiled.

“It only became a good thing after I came to the Academy.”

“In a good way? So on Earth you were was famous in a bad way?”

“Yeah, I…”

And then,

“Seina, are you okay?!”

As if they had been waiting for the right moment to cut in, Kenneth and Rajau came running over. They looked worried, but it was clear that their focus was on Miki.

Perhaps sensing this, Miki stood up and put some distance between them, as if to get away from them.

“Oh, hello, Miki-senpai. I'm Kenneth Bāru, Seina's teammate.”

“I'm Rajau Ga Waura, and I'm also Seina's teammate.”

Like comedians coming onto stage, They made their presence known to Miki.

“Yes, thank you.”

Miki's smile disappeared, and she went from being an older sister to once again looking like an senior student.

“Yes!”

The two of them didn't notice and happily bowed to each other in a “stand at attention” pose.

“Seina, are you okay? Now that Kenneth Bāru is here, everything is okay!”

“Seina, Rajau Ga Waura is with you too!”

Calling out his name repeatedly, Kenneth and Rajau held Seina from either side.

“Sorry.”

“Don’t worry! We’re a team. Hey Rajau Ga Waura.”

“Yes, Kenneth Bāru.”

Miki looked at the two of them with dismay, but then she sighed softly and said, “The wind is starting to get cold. I don't want him to get any colder, so please take him back to the dorms quickly.”

“I, Kenneth Bāru, understand.”

“I, Rajau Ga Waura, understand.”

Kenneth and Rajau saluted at the same time.

“Thank you very much, Kenneth and Rajau.”

With that, Miki turned on her heel and quickly left in the direction she came from.

“Great! I remember your name. Rajau Ga Waura.”

“It went well, Kenneth Bāru.”

The two of them gave a small fist pump, picked up Seina and started running towards the school building.

“Haha, youth, right?” Looking at Seina and the others, Amane crossed her arms and muttered with a sentimental look on her face.

“In contrast…” She glanced at Kiriko out of the corner of her eye.

“……”

Kiriko remained silent and looked at Miki - no, glared at her.

(Hostility?… For now, I think she feels more like a mother than a love rival. But…)

Amane had been observing Kiriko's reactions towards Seina all along and felt something was off. However…

(Well, it's okay… I don't think it's something I should have to say, and if I do say something, it'll just backfire.) Amane intuitively understood this and refrained from teasing Kiriko any further.

“I'm going home soon. What about you, Kiriko?”

“Eh!? Ah, I see… I'll leave as well. The curriculum schedule can't be finalized until the system is repaired…” As she said this, she glanced over to where Seina had collapsed.

“Ah!?”

“Seina was taken home by his teammates.” Amane told Kiriko, who seemed a little flustered when she noticed Seina was not there.

“By the way, what are you going to do about Seina? If you continue making him go through pointless training like that…”

“It's a good opportunity to get a firsthand look at what it's like to be in the GP.”

"Are you saying he'll give up…?"

Kiriko silently nodded to Amane's words.

"Personally, I'd prefer him to stay, but… I think we should have a proper discussion."

"What’s the big deal… Was I really getting in the way, or is it just my imagination.

“I told you, I want him to stay.”

"It's half your fault that Seina-kun has to go through this."

Kiriko started walking after Amane, who was heading back to the teachers lounge.

“Look, when it comes to that idiot, I'm a victim too. If you have a problem, you can either complain to that idiot directly, or take him to a Jurai facility and have his bio-enhancement done there.”

“I'm against Seina joining the GP!”

“Hey Kiriko, you really are…” Amane started to say something but stopped, because she didn't think she should say any more.

“Really? Don't stop in the middle of it.”

“Ah… ah, are you sure you're okay with skipping lunch? It's still a little early, but how about we go for dinner somewhere?”

“?? Y-Yes… I guess I'll do that. I'll go and tell Principal Mikami, so can you wait for me for a bit?”

With that, she jogged past Amane.

“Class is over. In the end, Kiriko didn't do anything.” Karen, who was keeping an eye on Seina, muttered as she watched Kiriko run away.

“But she was there watching the whole time.” Gyokuren, who was beside her, answered while checking the direction Seina was moving and the information sent by the GP escort unit and the detective unit members who were following him.

“Or maybe Karen wanted to yell at him?”

“…Well, kind of. One punch to that guy's face.” She clenched her fists and blushed a little as she answered. “But the driver did it for me.”

“Well, I feel a little better now.” Gyokuren, unusually, answered with her fist clenched.

“After all the teasing you've done, I'm sure you're also curious about Seina-sama.”

“It pisses me off when I see other people doing what I want to do.”

She smiled with a sinister expression. Combined with Gyokuren's beauty, it created an immense sense of dread.

“Definitely picked the wrong person.”

Feeling goosebumps all over her body, Karen suddenly remembered Seina's face. And the chill she had felt just now subsided as if by magic.

“?”

Feeling strange, she looked at Gyokuren's face. The discomfort hit her again, but as soon as she remembered Seina's face, it subsided.

(Ah, I see… his presence has a mental detoxifying effect.)

“…What's wrong? That's creepy.”

Gyokuren looked quizzically at Karen, who was grinning.

“Oh, no… it’s nothing. Anyway, it's almost time for Gyokuren to switch shifts. Now that there are no more voyeur missions, things will be a lot easier.”

“That's true. After I rest for a bit, maybe I should go shopping. Since I came all the way to the Academy, there are a lot of things I want.”

“Well, you’re going to be here for a while, and you’re getting an allowance… so I’m just telling you, don’t buy any weird stuff!”

“What weird stuff?”

“…weird stuff!”

As Karen said this, her face turning red, she received a message from Suiren.

“It's time to change.”

Immediately afterwards, Suiren was transferred in.

When Mikami received Kiriko's report, she was meeting with Airi in the president's office.

In a space made of a huge monolith of obsidian, about ten secretaries were adjusting the systems of the Academy as a whole. After working all night and carrying out a huge amount of stressful work since the previous day, even the strongest group of secretaries was showing signs of fatigue.

“Thank you for your hard work.”

After finishing the call, Mikami entered Kiriko's report status into the system plan. Airi sighed in admiration as she watched.

“As expected, Kiriko-chan is a fast worker.”

“The major items left at GP Academy are the medical system and the general curriculum.” Mikami had a look of relief on her face.

“It would be quicker if Kiriko could do that too…”

“It can't be helped. We have to get the operators accustomed to the new system as soon as possible. Besides, ……”

“There are some things I don't want Seto to know. So, when is it expected to be restored?”

“If all goes according to plan, by tomorrow… if the mischievous boy doesn't do anything, that is.”

“It wouldn't be any fun if he didn't.”

“That's right. But what happened to you, Airi? If it's the Philosophy Department, the damage caused by the loss of data would be astronomical, right?”

“The data doesn't matter. Each Philosophy Master has their own backup. The bigger problem is that the Master Guard was broken so easily!” Airi's sullen expression became increasingly stern and her tone became rougher.

“A security system created by the greatest minds in the galaxy, in an instant.”

As she spoke, Airi glared at Mikami with resentment. Just like Seina, the Kuramitsu family's “nature” had caused many people, including Washu, a lot of hardship.

“There are a lot of benefits to it.”

"It's going to be hard to stop the philosophy students from wanting to check out Seina-kun."

She plopped down at her desk and begins to write the word “no” in a sulky manner.

“Haha, Seina-kun seems to be having a hard time keeping that Airi-sama in check.”

“It’s fine! We're like relatives after all.”

In stark contrast to her previous appearance, Airi now leaned back with a confident look on her face.

“Well, I suppose there's no harm in saying that…”

In an Academy where billions of people gathered from all over the galaxy, Airi's words couldn't be said to be entirely wrong, given that he was her grandson's best friend and a female member of the family was his acting guardian.

(But, whether or not she has the qualifications is another matter.)

If Seina took her to arbitration, Airi would definitely not be able to get close to him.

(Although, I doubt the arbitration office would have the guts to tell Airi about their decision…)

“Um… Airi-sama, Mikami-sama, good morning.” Elma approached timidly and said hesitantly.

Perhaps because she still felt guilty about the previous night, she wasn't her usual cheerful self. With her shoulders slumped, she looked like a puppy that had been separated from her parents.

“Oh, good morning. They let you go, have they?” Airi spoke in a blunt, somewhat dismissive manner.

“Yes… I'm sorry for the inconvenience.”

Airi's response made Elma cringe even more.

“Please say hello to the others too.” Airi said.

“Yes.” Elma replied as she trudged over to stand next to the chief secretary.

“I'm sorry for the inconvenience. If there's anything I can help you with…”

"We're in the final check stage now, so I’ll see you later.” The chief secretary, a woman in her forties with a bossy look, looked at the monitor and answered in the same curt manner as Airi.

“I see, sorry.” She bowed deeply and headed towards the assistant secretary.

“Um, ……, I apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.”

“……”

The deputy secretary was engrossed in her work in silence.

Elma didn't say anything more, so she bowed and headed toward the third secretary. But after Elma passed by, the junior secretary's shoulders started to shake slightly. And the same thing happened with the chief secretary.

“I'm sorry for the inconvenience this has caused”

“……”

The next secretary just nodded slightly.

“Airi-sama…I'm sorry.” In the end, after being rejected the same way by ten secretaries, Elma was completely dejected and returned to Airi, apologizing again in a faint voice.

“Argh… Guuuuuuuuuuuu!!”

Unable to contain herself any longer at the sight of Elma looking up at her with moist eyes, Airi hugged her tightly and began to roughly stroke her head.

“Dammit! That's so cute, you coward!”

Airi's scream triggered the secretaries, who had been holding back until then, to burst out laughing. They were all in on the fun of teasing Elma.

“Huh? Huh?”

Elma watched in amazement at the secretaries through the gap in Airi's arms as she was held her.

“Oh my, Airi-sama, it’s not fair to be the first to laugh. Well, I knew that would happen.” The chief secretary said with a laugh and tears in her eyes.

“Shut up. I can't stand being stared at with those round, watery eyes!”

Airi grabbed Elma's face, which was still tearful, and turned her towards the secretaries.

The secretaries, seeing this, all burst out laughing again.

“…that's terrible…” Elma said with a scowl and a frown on her face.

“Well, it's true that things have been tough since last night. I think it's okay to be a little mean to you, Elma.” The chief secretary approached Elma and stroked her under the chin.

“…Mee.”

“Ho ho ho. Elma, please make us some tea. Then we can work it out.”

At the same time Mikami spoke, Airi released her grip on Elma's head.

“Ah, yes!”

After bowing to Airi and the others, Elma ran happily toward the tea room.

“Now that we've had a change of pace, let's complete the final check before the tea arrives.”

With the help of Kenneth and Rajau, Seina managed to make it to the dorm and collapsed face down on his bed.

“Ah…”

Since he had been lying on the hard ground, the soft bed felt even more comfortable than usual. He felt like his muscles would cramp up if he wasn't careful, so he relaxed his body as much as possible.

“The large public bath will open soon, so please be patient. There you can stretch out and relax in the hot water. There is also a massage bath.”

“Thank you. Sorry for the inconvenience…”

“We are teammates. And I never get tired of being with you, Seina.

“That's right… Oh no, it's time.”

The marks began to reappear on Kenneth and Rajau's faces, and they looked towards the paper bags in the corner of the room.

“What should I do? It's not like I'm going out or anything.”

“I don't mind it like this. I'm sure there will be a lot of people with this mark after the commotion last night.”

“That's right.”

They both sat down on the bed next to Seina.

“Even so, he must really hate you. Seina should have started with Bio-Enhancement, but he made him do the same thing as us.”

“…I was told yesterday when I met him that he hates Earthlings…” Seina remembered the first time he met Seiryo.

“Do you know him? Did he get caught up in Seina's bad luck before?”

“…I think this is the first time we've met.”

“This the first time you've met?”

Kenneth and Rajau shook their heads.

“Well, I guess he hates all Earthlings… something really bad must have happened to him. But even so, isn't that a case of him taking out his anger on others?”

“Well, personal feelings aside, GP and military instructors are like that everywhere. Besides, this kind of thing is more about mental training than physical training.”

“…I bet he was a nasty student…”

Seina couldn't help but chuckle wryly at Kenneth's words.

(But……)

Even though he was subjected to what seemed like unreasonable training and was worn out, this was a place where Seina felt comfortable.

“Now that I think of it, that driver was a really interesting guy.”

“That's right. I looked him up and it seems the driver is a pretty important person.”

They activated the monitor and accessed a website related to the Tennan Group.

“Ah, this old man!”

Next to his photo was a brief description of his profile.

“Dan Shade of the Tennan Corporation's private security department… Head of the vehicle maintenance department? He's now an executive.”

“But why is someone like that a driver?”

“I don't know. But from what he said, it doesn't seem like Seina's bad luck was the only reason Tennan-sensei got hurt.”

“Haha, that's right… Oh, it's almost time for the bath to open, let's go then.”

Kenneth and Rajau picked up Seina from either side and headed to the public bath.

On Mikagami's bridge, in addition to the seats for the operators and Seto, there was also Seto's private space, separated by the Royal Trees.

The house was about 102 sq. m. (~1100 sq. ft.) in size and had a small moat and garden at its center, a circular terrace built for multi-purpose use, connected to a small passageway by numerous lattice-like slits that screened the view.

The only people allowed in this space were Seto and her closest friends and family.

Appearing from a super long distance teleportation gate, cleverly hidden by a hedge in the garden, was Kiriko's mother, Tsukiko.

“Minaho-sama, sorry I'm late.”

Tsukiko, bowing her head deeply, looked more like Kiriko's older sister than her mother. However, her calm and glamorous presence was far more mature than Kiriko's, no, even compared to Minaho.

“It's fine. We called you here.”

“Tsukiko-chan, come in. I've been waiting for you.”

Before she had even finished exchanging greetings with Minaho, Seto, who had heard Tsukiko's voice, interrupted.

“It's been a while, Seto-sama.”

“No formal greetings.”

Seto happily grabbed Tsukiko's hand and pulled her toward the house.

Once you went around the partition, you'd find yourself in the living room. Although it was called a house, it only had one room, the living room, and this house, or rather the private space itself, was built around a huge tree with a large hollow inside.

Inside the beautifully polished wood were unique Juraian plants that had lighting and air conditioning functions, and the walls and floors were covered with carpet grass and moss that had a velvety texture and a wide variety of colors.

“Come on, sit here.”

“No, but…”

“It's okay, it's okay, you're my guest today.”

Tsukiko was feeling a little embarrassed, but Seto forced her to sit at the head of the table and made tea in a wooden cooking unit.

“What would you like to have with tea?”

And then she began to take out sweets from here and there and put them in a row, from wherever she had hidden them.

(Seto-sama… she looks like a squirrel hiding nuts before hibernating.)

Minaho sighed as she looked at the sweets lined up in front of Tsukiko. Tsukiko also looked at the scene with wide eyes. In Tsukiko's case, the sweets lined up haphazardly were all ultra-luxury items that most people wouldn't be able to eat…

“Let’s get started♡”

Seto sat diagonally next to Tsukiko and started clapping happily. It was almost like a gathering of girlfriends or neighborhood old ladies.

“Oh dear.” Minaho sighed.

“That's right! I have to apologize to Seina-kun about what happened this morning…” As she said this, she glanced over at Seto and Tsukiko. “And also about the future…”

“Is it about time?” Kiriko muttered while glaring at the clock in her living room.

“At this time of night, we’ve already had dinner and there’s still plenty of time before lights-out… I guess we should just meet in person and talk…”

Suddenly, Kiriko noticed that her palms were sweating.

“Oh no… What am I so nervous about? I'm just going to call Seina-chan like always.”

Hastily, she wiped her hands on her skirt and shook them dry.

Kiriko took a deep breath and began calling the Academy dorms.

The medical technology at the Academy was not comparable to that on Earth, even at the civilian level, which was to be expected. After a gel massage bath in the large bath, Seina felt some pain, but was able to get up and move around normally. His appetite had fully returned, and after eating his dinner, he rested in his bed.

“Why don't you take the rest of the day off? Luckily, the curriculum hasn't started yet, so there's no homework to do.”

“Yeah… then let's do that.”

As he was about to say that, Seina received a phone call.

He put up a secret wall on his bed and took the call.

“Good evening, Seina-kun. Thank you for your hard work today.”

The person on the other end of the line was Minaho.

“Oh, good evening.”

“Sorry, were you sleeping?”

“No, I just finished eating and was taking a short rest…”

“It seems like they've narrowed it down quite a bit since day one.”

“Eh, well…”

“That teacher… he seems to dislike Earthlings a bit.”

Minaho looked like she had to think about it for a moment.

“…Hey, Seina-kun. I want to apologize for everything… but would you like me to do something for you?”

“What do you mean?”

“Perhaps we could do the bio-enhancement at a Juraian facility, or have Tennan-sensei transfered …”

“Huh!?”

To be honest, it was a very attractive proposition…

“It’s…”

“Hmm?” Minaho looked at Seina with gentle eyes.

“!”

She seemed to overlap with Kiriko. It wasn’t something that was outwardly related, but perhaps it was a characteristic of those connected to the Masaki family - Kiriko, Tsukiko, the people of the village, and Tenchi were all like that. Tenchi's mother, of whom he only had vague memories, was also like that.

But those eyes were not just kind - they were eyes that were testing him.

“No. I'm fine.”

“Yes?” Minaho couldn't help but be drawn in by the bright smile on Seina's face.

A frighteningly innocent, carefree and pure smile that came from the joy of seeing someone who cared for him and showed his affection. This was what Seto and the Widow were fascinated by.

“Hmm… why?”

He spoke while trying to be as calm as possible.

“Because if I don't, Kiriko wouldn't approve.”

“!!”

If she had been there instead of communcating, there was no doubt she would have hugged him and rubbed her cheek against his.

“More importantly… if you could do something about Airi…”

“That's impossible♡ Absolutely impossible. No way, no way, no way.”

“You don't have to repeat yourself like that. But why are you saying so…?”

"Mom always wanted a son, but so far has only had daughters, including me… While I was preparing Tenchi-chan's plot, Seto-sama already decided on a bride for him, and then all these unexpected people started popping up, and now he's out of my reach. And the plot I prepared failed, so I couldn't take him into space…"

“But I'm not related to Airi-san… Ah, how about Kiriko-san's younger brother Kai?”

In an attempt to escape Airi, Seina ended up selling out his friend.

“He hasn't had the ceremony to ascend to space yet, and he's not the type of boy she likes.”

But that plan was quickly foiled,

“He’s not her type… so am I her type?”

He couldn't believe it, that was the look on his face.

(I don't know whether I'm happy or sad…)

He was happy that she liked him, but he also felt sad that it was Airi, so he had complicated feelings.

“Haha. You're so cute, Seina-kun.”

“Ugh!…”

Seina blushed bright red, not just because he was being called cute, but because Minaho had said it in an incredibly cute way.

“That's a great reaction. I can understand why my mother teases you.”

“But! But Airi-san's behavior is not at the level of teasing or anything like that.”

“Mother just loves you and your talent. So please cut her some slack.”

“That makes me really happy… but…”

“Well, if you think about it, being bitten by a stray dog is probably a common occurrence for Seina-kun.”

“That's right… but…”

He felt sorry for the mother, who was compared to a stray dog by her daughter…

“It's like being bitten by a tiger and dragged into its den.”

“Hahaha! That's a good analogy.”

“This is no laughing matter. Do something!”

“That's not possible, that's why I apologized this morning.”

“Oh, no way.”

“Well then, good luck♡”

“Just a moment please!”

As Seina was about to reach out hisl hand, Minaho's communication went dead.

“Seina. Something terrible has happened.”

Kenneth poked Seina's shoulder as he slumped weakly.

“Huh?”

When Seina turned around, he saw a row of monitors lined up behind Kenneth like ghosts, all waiting to communicate.

“They're all Miki Steinbeck's fan club representatives. Hahahaha.”

“……”

Surrounded by enemies - that's exactly how he felt.

“N-no…”

Around that time, Kiriko was also in a state of despair.

When she called Seina, she found out that with just a short delay, the number of phone reservations with Seina had already exceeded several thousand.

"Are you receiving all of them? Seina-chan, you haven't customized your phone settings. I don't know the direct call code… or rather, you don't have that set up… We'll never be able to talk before the lights go out." Kiriko gave up and hung up the phone.

“I guess I’ll have to talk to him directly tomorrow… Ah, no! I’m going to have to tell Seina’s parents about his admission…” She started to say, then stopped.

“That’s right… Even if I announce his admission, I’m going to send him back to Earth… so I don’t want to give them too much hope…”

Even if Seina returned to Earth, it would be dismissed as his bad luck and the matter would be resolved easily. Also, part of his reward money has already been resolved. As for the rest of the huge balance, she’d have to figure something out.

“Anyway, I need to convince Seina-chan first…Come to think of it, that girl…”

That evening, Kiriko suddenly remembered Miki watching Seina. She turned on the monitor and started searching for the girl’s profile.

As a GP student, their personal information was investigated in great detail. Her information was found immediately.

“Miki Steinbeck. The only family member is the father… I don't think there's anything suspicious about him. But then there's the matter I asked Mikami-sama about…”

She checked the list of students and staff who had collapsed during the entrance ceremony and been taken away, but Miki's name was not there.

“Am I overthinking this? But…”

When she saw the photo of Miki's face, something seemed off. More than being suspicious, it seemed unsettling.

“That's fine. Once I get Seina-chan home it's all good. Time for a bath and then to bed.” Kiriko told herself, stood up and headed to the bathroom.

After finishing the communication with Seina.

“Oh man, I understand how Seto-sama and mother feel. Look at that troubled look on Seina-kun's face.” Remembering Seina's troubled expression, Minaho writhed in agony.

“Hehe….Ah”

After that embarrassing monologue, she noticed that there was an operator on duty and that she was looking away as if she was in trouble.

“……”

“……”

After a bit of an awkward atmosphere…

“Good job.”

“Ah… Minaho-sama, are you here? I didn't notice you.”

There was a roundabout exchange of whispers and agreement.

“Then I leave the rest to you. Now, what happened over there?”

Minaho then moved from the operator's seat as if nothing had happened and headed for the gate to Seto's private space.

Passing the circular garden terrace, she went through a small garden towards the living space.

The room only had a roof and a barred screen, so it was possible to see what the two were doing without even going inside.

(… Tsukiko-chan's expression?)

Seto was smiling as she watched Seina's recording - no, her attention was directed not at the screen, but at Tsukiko.

(Tsukiko-chan?)

Tsukiko's expression as she looked lovingly at Seina overlapped with Kiriko's.

Minaho quietly left the place and went outside.

“Seto-sama, …you're not going to let go of Seina no matter what.” She sighed deeply and looked up at the Mikagami tree towering before her.

“Today, I was really grateful for the roll call.” Rajau sighed heavily as he changed into his pajamas.

“That's right.” Kenneth said as he looked at Seina's bed.

The emergency interview with Miki's fan club was cut short thanks to the roll call, before it got too complicated. Exhausted, Seina passed out and fell asleep right after roll call.

“I'm tired too. Let's get some rest.”

“Ah, good night.”

With that, the two of them lay in their respective beds, and within a minute, they were breathing quietly in their sleep.

—Late that night, in a dark, quiet corner of a room, lay a stack of paper bag masks made by Kenneth and Rajau.

“… Beep.”

Along with a small startup sound, a faint spot of light lit up in the eye area of one of the masks.

The night before the entrance ceremony, the state-of-the-art NB of Airi's philosopher workshop, which had been used as a dummy for the dorm escape, had been forgotten, still covered with paper bags.

It looked carelessly placed, like a toy randomly thrown into a child's room, and given its rarity it appears incredibly vulnerable.

“Here… here is good.”

“But.”

“Good. Because I chose this, you won't have to worry about anything.” A whispering voice emanated from the NB.

Although the paper bag mask was somewhat comical, the way it glowed faintly in the dark room was quite frightening. However, Seina and the other boys were so exhausted and asleep that they didn't notice, and the light and sound quickly disappeared, and silence returned to the room.

“That was surprising.” Raireza muttered as she stretched out in the dimly lit room.

“Even if they were made by Airi-dono's workshop, even if dozens of S-class biocomputers were lined up in parallel, they still couldn't break through the guard.”

Behind Raireza there were a row of large cylindrical units, resembling a storehouse for producing sake or miso, with large barrels lined up.

“When the net was restored and I found out that NB had been connected to the GP Academy dormitory system, I thought things would work out…”

She turned her chair and looked at the unit behind her. She wondered if it was broken, but there was nothing wrong with the unit itself and it was working normally.

As her concentration wavered and she relaxed her body, sleepiness suddenly hit her.

“Fuwa…”

Suppressing a loud yawn midway, Raireza stood up briskly and began doing some light exercises to shake off the sleepiness.

As her stiff body relaxed, she began to think clearly again - or perhaps it should said that her reason returned…

“…Come to think of it, using NB to peek isn't really a good idea. I'm curious about Amane-chan, but…”

She sat back down in her chair and pulled the monitor closer.

“If that boy has special abilities and Airi-sama is involved, there's no way they could assign him just a backup NB… That means they must be gathering information on the boy and sending it somewhere. Maybe the real NB is somewhere else…"

Staring at the monitor, she tried to summarise what had happened so far while speaking her thoughts out loud.

“Whew… well, either way, I guess there's no point in investigating an NB that hasn't been properly started yet.”

Succumbing to sleepiness, Raireza launched a certain program.

“Woof woof!”

A CG character, resembling a Doberman and looking like a typical military dog, was sitting and looking at Raireza.

“Well, I'll let this kid keep watch and I'll call it a day.”

After making sure that the CG dog was heading for the net, she inflated the cushion in her chair, transforming it into a simple bed. She then took off her shoes and collapsed onto the bed.

“If that doesn't work… I can just ask Airi-dono directly…”

The room went dark, and Raireza immediately began to sleep peacefully.

Chapter Five: Classes, Teachers and Senior Students: Day 2

The next morning.

“…Hmm… Hmmmm”

Seina woke up with the morning sun hitting his face and stretched as he got up.

He got off the bed and moved his body around.

“…Wow… Amazing.”

He felt no pain and his body felt so light that it was hard to believe he was tired yesterday.

“You look good.” Rajau suddenly woke up and said out to him.

“Yeah, nothing hurts and I feel better than I did yesterday.”

“I'm glad to hear that. Oh, it's for you, Seina-kun.” said Rajau, who was the first to hear the call.

“What? Oh, really?”

He quickly sat down at his desk and put up a secret wall.

“Good morning Seina-chan.”

Kiriko appeared on the monitor.

“Oh, Kiriko-san… Good morning.”

Seina's expression naturally broke into a gentle smile as usual.

“Hey, Seina, there's something I want to talk to you about after school today. Please come here after class.”

Then, the GP Academy map appeared, showing the location Kiriko had specified.

“I'll be waiting for you.

“Um, well…”

The call was ended with only the bare minimum of information being exchanged.

(I guess the story is …… of course, I’m supposed to go back to Earth)

As soon as he realized this, he was hit by a sudden wave of fatigue and lost all strength in his body. He felt as if all his motivation had vanished. This was because it meant that all the irreplaceable memories and accomplishments that Seina had accumulated in the ten days since he had left Earth would be lost.

“Between being here and Kiriko-san…?”

It was the ultimate choice.

“… But.” Seina stood up with a certain resolve.

—**GP Academy Grounds**

“Due to delays in system restoration work, …..”

The class started the same way as the previous day. The only difference from the previous day was that Seiryo, who had been bandaged and using crutches, was now completely recovered.

“We'll be doing basic physical training again today!” Seiryo shouted with great energy and joy, his whole body overflowing with power and he was practically jumping up and down.

“Well, I'm sorry that I was rude to you excellent guys with yesterday's easy menu, so I've decided to add five more sets today!”

His steps were completely different from yesterday. He was lighter and skipping as he moved among the students.

“…I know it's a bit tough, but if you're all talented people, I believe you'll be able to handle this without any trouble! If you're all talented people… right!” He turned to look, bluntly, at Seina.

(Haa… I thought so)

Seina sighed in his mind. But he felt great. He was sure he would collapse again, but he was glad he wasn't still sore from yesterday.

“Heh heh heh.”

Satisfied with Seina's silence, Seiryo returned his gaze and once again left the line of students.

“It's okay, Seina.” Rajau spoke in a whisper.

“Huh?”

Seina looked up and saw Kenneth and Rajau smiling as if they were up to something.

With a light skip, Seiryo stepped out of the line of students, turned to face them with an exaggerated reaction, and pointed his sonic gun high into the air.

“Well then, yooooooo hohoho…”

The cheers were also booming.

Bang!

As the sound echoed across the grounds, the students began running.

“Hahaha, there you go! I'm glad you're doing well!”

Seiryo followed the students with his eyes as they ran off and nodded in satisfaction.

But when he turned his gaze a little closer.

“… Huh?”

Seina, who should be behind the group of students, was not there.

“That's ridiculous! There's no way he could keep up with that speed, so why aren't you there?”

He poked the ground to see if Seina was standing where he was, in the opposite direction, in the sky, or even underground.

“Why?!…No way…Ah!”

In the most unlikely of cases, Seiryo spotted Seina among the running students.

“That's absurd!”

Seina was running at the same speed as the other students, without falling behind.

“So you got some bio-enhancement at some hospital without telling me! You coward!”

Seiryo was upset and gnashed his teeth, stomping his feet in frustration, but then the students circled the ground and passed in front of Seiryo.

“Hmm? Hmmmmmmmm!”

Seiryo finally noticed then that Rajau and Kenneth were running holding both sides of Seina.

“Hey, hey! Stop, stop!!”

He began chasing the line of students, firing his gun repeatedly and yelling.

“Everyone stop!”

Seiryo's angry yell brought the line to a sudden halt.

“Yamada Seina! You are a student of the GP Academy, a guardian of the law…”

When Seiryo tried to cut in line with the students,

“Teacher, as Yamada Seina's teammates, we were practicing evacuation assuming he was an injured person in an emergency!”

Kenneth and Rajau declared as they stepped forward to protect Seina while saluting. Hearing this, Seiryo stopped moving forward.

“…I see, as a teammate of Yamada Seina, there is a high probability that something like that could happen. Well, it was an oversight not to have thought of that..”

It was a bit of a stretch, but since Seiryo didn't have a bad impression of any of the students other than Seina, he forgot his anger and went into deep thought.

“I get it, I'm impressed by your concern for your comrades! However, right now you are still training to improve your basic physical strength, so you should focus on improving your individual abilities first!”

“Yes sir!”

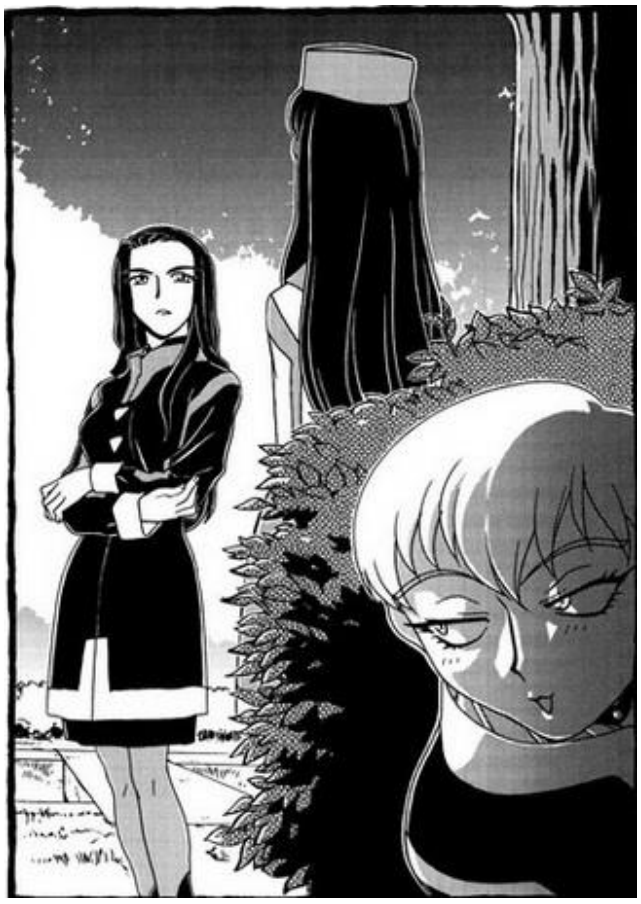
“Very well. Now everyone line up and resume training!”

At Seiryo's command, the students started running again.

“Hahaha, too bad. It was a good idea, but you need to do it a little better.”

In her usual spot, Amane watched Seina and the other boys with interest.

“By the way, I thought Kiriko would be there, but where is she…? Maybe!”



She suddenly looked over to the place where Miki had been watching Seina yesterday, and sure enough, there was Miki and Kiriko standing there facing each other.

(…This one looks more interesting.)

Amane went down the stairs on the other side, trying not to be noticed by the two.

(They both seem to have good instincts.)

Looking happy, she used the stealth techniques she learned in the Criminal Investigation Division to go to the back of the school building and peeked at the two of them from behind a tree.

“You're Miki Steinbeck.”

“Yes, Masaki Kiriko-sensei. Is there anything I can help you with?”

“!”

Kiriko was a little surprised that Miki knew her name, even though she had suddenly become a lecturer and had not yet taught a class.

“I looked up Seina-kun at the GP Academy office and found out that his guardian was a teacher.” Miki said nonchalantly.

Amane watched the scene and tried to hold back her laughter.

(You're under pressure, Kiriko, and that's why you're……)

“I don't want to pry into what kind of interest you have in Seina-kun, but… it's dangerous to approach him with half-hearted feelings. His bad luck is not normal.” Kiriko calmly and teacher-like spoke as if she was giving Miki advice.

“I see. Thank you for the advice.” Miki bowed deeply and then surprisingly quickly withdrew. Then she passed by the tree where Amane was hiding and walked off somewhere.

“Whew.”

Amane sighed deeply, stood up from the bushes where she had been hiding, and watched Miki leave.

“Oh dear, you noticed.”

“Amane, were you there?”

“So this is Kiriko's loss… No, maybe Kiriko was the one who didn't have the time to spare?”

“How rude. Don’t just pop out and start making weird comments. Besides, peeping is in bad taste… Wait, what? What's the matter with you, suddenly eavesdropping on people?

Amane stared at Kiriko's face and then remembered Miki's face.

“You and that girl look alike.”

“Huh?”

“When Kiriko and Miki stood facing each other, it was like looking into a mirror. Of course, your appearances were different…”

“Stop talking nonsense, I'm going to the teachers lounge!” Kiriko looked upset and stormed up the nearby stairs.

Three hours later, Seina collapsed on the ground.

“Our job as the GP is to crack down on those who break the law, but that is only one way of protecting people's lives…”

Just like yesterday, Seiryo was giving a lengthy speech next to the collapsed Seina.

“Yes, our mission is to enable good people to live their daily lives in freedom and safety! It is never about us.”

As he got more and more into the swing of things, Seiryo's gestures got bigger and bigger, and he began to need more space. Eventually, he started to move away from Seina, and into the path of the other students.

“What are you doing, you idiot?”

Students who were forced to change course because of Seiryo's presence ran around him.

“Hey, don't you think he's a nuisance?”

Elroy, who was leading the way, said, “Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way! Get out of the way!”

One after the other, the other students responded.

“It has been unanimously decided that he’s in the way!”

“Shall we go then?”

“Roger that!”

The students picked up their pace.

“Sometimes you have to sacrifice yourself to protect the citizens! But sometimes you still don't get any understanding! You may end up being trampled on by many people!”

As Seiryo spoke in a self-absorbed state, the students came running from behind him with the force of a tsunami.

“Gyaaah!”

In a flash, Seiryo disappeared into the dust.

After the students ran off, Seiryo was left buried in the ground, covered in footprints.

“Hey, did you hear something?”

“No, nothing for me.”

“Shall we try again?”

“Hey, the teacher told us twice as much as yesterday.”

“That's right.”

After this, the students didn't stop running until the end of class.

“Well, Kenneth, I understand how that driver felt.”

“Hahaha, that's right Rajau-kun.”

(…Oh dear, having nothing to do is painful.)

Amane, who had been reading her teaching manual in the teachers lounge, stood up and began doing some light exercises to loosen up her stiff body.

“After all, the curriculum system hadn't been repaired yet, so why not just join the basic training for female students… Huh?”

She looked over to the window facing the hallway and saw Kiriko staring out at the field.

“… You're enthusiastic.” Amane left the room and stood next to Kiriko.

On the ground, Seina was staggering but still doing push-ups with all his might.

“Hey, how long are you going to make him do such pointless stuff?” Amane asked in a

slightly annoyed tone.

“We're going to talk today.”

“Is that so? That's fine then… but then again, what about that idiot?”

Amane noticed that Seiryo, who was supposed to be giving a speech next to Seina, was not there, and found him lying on the ground a short distance away.

“What is he doing?”

As she muttered this, a group of students who had completed another lap passed over Seiryo.

“Pfft! I see… hehehehe.” Amane burst out laughing.

—Gong, gong.

The bell rang to signal the end of the morning curriculum.

On the grounds, the students lined up in their usual positions. Kenneth and Rajau picked up the exhausted Seina and helped him into the line.

The driver who had come to pick him up grabbed Seiryo, who was like a rag, and dragged him along, roughly throwing him into his car and driving away.

“So, Kiriko, what should we do for lunch? Should we go out to eat or get takeout?”

“Well… how about “Nashisu”? It might not suit Amane though.”

“That’s Airi's shop, right? OK.”

Amane and Kiriko confirmed that the students were starting to leave, and started walking toward the stairs. However, as if they had waited until Kiriko and Amane had left, a medical vehicle entered the grounds.

Airi's shop, Nashisu, was located on the seafront adjacent to the GP Academy.

It was a huge crater about 50 kilometers in diameter, formed by a runaway test, and filled with seawater to form a perfect circular bay. The site was crowded with tourists who wanted to see the greatness of the crater and the Washu Memorial Museum, which was built in the center of the crater.

The inner wall of the crater was a cliff several hundred meters high, and many shops, restaurants, and accommodation facilities for tourists were built here by hollowing out the outer wall like a seabird's nest. The lower floors built in the early days were filled with hidden shops crowded with staff from the GP Academy and other nearby facilities. Nashisu was also located there.

Nashisu was not a restaurant that catered to tourists, but a restaurant that served ordinary prepared foods, like a restaurant on Earth. Amane and Kiriko sat at a table near the entrance of the restaurant and waited for the food they ordered to arrive.

“Hey, isn't that a little strange?” Kiriko muttered as she stared at the droplets of water on the glass.

“What?”

“Isn't it strange that computer maintenance is taking so long?”

"Yeah, it's hard to get Seina's Bio-Enhancement also."

“I-I'm just worried about my class schedule.” Kiriko slammed her fist on the table and retorted.

“Hello, dear ladies, how are you?”

Then, Seiryo briskly walked in, brushed off the curtain at the entrance, and sat down next to Amane, as if it was natural.

“As beautiful as ever, Ama…. GAH!!”

“…Why are you sitting next to me?”

Amane mercilessly stabbed her fork into Seiryo's hand, which he had been trying to put around her shoulder, and gave him a cold look.

“Where should I sit if not next to you?”

"The food is going to go bad. Get lost!"

“Hahaha, I guess so. We won’t get anything decent out of a place like this. Let’s move to a more suitable place… Ngagh!”

This time, two forks were stabbed into Seiryo's head. The one who threw them was Airi, who was at the counter in the kitchen.

“If you don't like it, get the hell out.” She said this with a very displeased look on her face and went back to work.

(Even so…)

Seiryo sat there unconcerned about Amane's incredible disgust, which even an insensitive person would recognize at a glance.

(He's a carefree genius. It's no wonder Amane overreacted. From the outside, they seem like a good-looking couple…) Sighing, Kiriko watched the slapstick comedy in silence.

“Yes, Airi-sama is right. Get out of here.”

“You don’t have to say such cold things. We’re childhood friends, after all.”

“That's right. It's been a while since you tried to lift my skirt, got chased by my pet Garuga, and then you peed yourself, tumbled down a hill and into the ocean while crying, and got caught in a fishing gill net and found three hours later.”

Eventually, chuckles could be heard all around.

“Well… I think I'll leave now. I'm a bit tired.”

Even Seiryo must be a little embarrassed, as he quickly stood up.

“You're not working enough to tire yourself out.”

“I have one student who is really difficult to deal with. Umm, I think… Oh, that's right! Yamada Seina or something like that? Oh! Come to think of it, Masaki-sensei knows him.”

"It seems like Seina-kun is causing a lot of trouble for Tennan-sensei.” Kiriko replied politely, even though she was a little confused when the topic was brought up.

“No no, he's trying his best too. Well, if he can keep up with my methods, I'm sure he'll become an excellent GP member too. Hahahahaha.”

“You’re not going to let him pass anyway. Seina hasn't even had his bio-enhancement yet.”

“I believe he can do it! Isn't it the role of a teacher to believe in the potential of their students and bring it out?”

“And what if it doesn't get brought out?”

“At that point… it would be better for him if he quit.” Kiriko mumbled, as telling herself that.

“Yes, that's right! I'm glad you understand.”

He took Kiriko's hand in a quick, practiced motion and looked at her with firm eyes. From the outside, it looked like a dramatic scene, but the forks were still stuck in his hand and his head.

—Clink.

The forks in Seiryo's head and the one in his hand were pushed out by the repair activity of the nanomachines and fell onto the table with perfect timing.

“Pfft!”

Amane and Kiriko burst out laughing at how silly it was, but Seiryo didn't seem to care and just kept holding Kiriko's hand.

“Heh heh heh. But once the computers are restored, he'll be able to receive Bio-Enhancement right away, and then he'll be able to complete that level of curriculum right away. By the way, you're the one in charge of Bio-Enhancement, right?”

“I’m the only one this year. As the officer in charge, I hope that he can receive the Bio-Enhancement as soon as possible, but it seems that it will take a little more time to repair the system.”

“Oh?”

Contrary to what he said, Seiryo sounded happy, but Amane looked at him with a suspicious look.

“…Oh, I just remembered an urgent matter. I will now excuse myself.” Seiryo quickly let go of Kiriko's hand, stood up, and quickly left.

(I wonder what he's planning… well, I can pretty much guess.)

“Sorry to keep you waiting.”

As Amane looked on skeptically, Airi cut in and put their food on the table. She threw the forks she had stabbed into Seiryo into the trash, put a new fork down, and started laying out the food one dish after another.

“It looks delicious. There are no more annoying people around, so I can enjoy myself.”

“Come on, Kiriko-chan, stop thinking too much. Just enjoy your meal.”

Airi tapped Kiriko on the shoulder as she was looking down and thinking deeply.

“Eh… Ah, yes.”

As the students looked on at the GP Academy field, a silver medical capsule slowly emerged from the rear of a medium-sized ambulance that had driven in. However, the reason the students were paying attention was because of Miki Steinbeck, a female student standing next to the vehicle and giving instructions.

“OK, then please.”

Miki pressed the switch on the capsule that had descended and opened the lid.

“Yes ma’am!”

Kenneth and Rajau took Seina's feet and hands and placed him inside the capsule.

“Whoa! Wh-what?”

Surprised by the feeling of being wet, Seina tried to sit up, but perhaps because he was so tired, he couldn't move.

“Hey, go to sleep.”

The capsule lid was closed, with only his face sticking out from the hole.

“Kenneth, what is… this?”

“It’s a coffin.” Kenneth happily said something outrageous.

“A-a coffin?!”

“It's a medical capsule. It contains a solution that promotes super-recovery.” Miki chuckled as she wiped Seina's sweaty, muddy face.

“Rejoice, Seina! Miki-senpai personally prepared this for you!”

“That's right!”

The two young men stood on either side of Miki, trying to get close to her, but Miki quickly dodged them and headed towards the car.

“You guys, return to your classroom. Seina, you will be sent directly there for your next class.”

“Yeeeesss.”

“Well then, Seina… good night.”

The capsule was placed into the ambulance, and although Seina felt uneasy about the claustrophobic feeling, the solution was so comfortable that he eventually fell asleep.

“Seina's vital signs have disappeared?”

Having received a report from a member of the GP escort force who was monitoring Seina from a different location, Hakuren quickly carried out an investigation.

“His vital signs have disappeared here too.” Gyokuren said, after quickly checking the sensor information on the monitor.

“Same here. Maybe the case is shielding them?”

“Or maybe the tracker injected into the Seina-sama was eliminated as a foreign object…”

They looked ahead to see the capsule completely stowed away. After confirming it, Miki was trying to get rid of the students who were reluctant to leave.

“There's no doubt that the car belongs to the medical department. The capsule is…”

“That’s the latest model that just arrived in the medical department. It seems to be quite advanced.” Gyokuren answered.

“It seems to be automatic, can you see the route?”

“The capsule is being transferred to … for transfer to the 9938th Medical Office.”

“We'll follow the medical vehicle. Just in case, Gyokuren will return to Renka and provide support from the sky.”

With that, Hakuren started chasing the medical vehicle that had finally started to move. But after about five minutes of driving, the vehicle arrived at the 9938th Medical Room as scheduled.

This was a stepped building that made use of the hills that descended to the sea, and the medical capsule emerged from underneath the medical vehicle parked on the top floor and was carried into an elevator for transfer to the medical room below.

“I have accessed the surveillance system.” Gyokuren sent video of the inside of the medical room.

The capsule came down from the elevator and was placed inside the hospital room, and the instrument lights changed from red to green to confirm that it was working.

Hakuren silently stepped onto the balcony of the hospital room and peered into the brightly lit room.

“Nothing seems wrong.” She breathed a small sigh of relief after checking everything over.

In the GP Academy computer control room, the silhouettes of Kiriko and a computer engineer appeared in the light of the monitors.

"The GP Academy's curriculum is created based on data sent from all GPs, so this data is kept strictly confidential. Therefore, we cannot ask for your help."

“… I see.” Kiriko sighed in disappointment.

“And aside from the medical system… things like bio-enhancement are not urgent, so they end up being put on the back burner.”

“That's true… Ah, but…”

“But?”

“Ah… no, it's nothing.”

The medical system was not classified. Kiriko could help repair that part. But then she remembered that she was against Seina staying at the Academy.

(Why did I even come here?)

“No matter what you say, you're worried about Seina.”

Suddenly, a voice answered Kiriko's question.

“Who!?”

She turned around in a panic to see Amane leaning against the door, grinning like a mother who's found her mischievous child.

“Oh, Amane! Why are you here?”

“Same as Kiriko.” Saying this, she approached Kiriko and the engineer.

“Amane, I don't really…”

“…So? How much longer will it take?”

Ignoring Kiriko, who looked awkward, Amane spoke to the engineer.

“… Ah… I can finish the curriculum system tomorrow… but the Bio-Enhancement system will take a little longer.”

The technician spoke to the monitor, avoiding Amane's gaze as she looked straight at him.

“Hmmmm.”

Amane saw this and immediately saw through the engineer's lie. She also noticed that someone was hiding in the direction the engineer was looking.

“…Well, never mind. Then, please do it as soon as possible. For the sake of anyone who is worried and irritated about their students.”

“Amane!”

“Hey, if you get in the way, it'll just slow things down.”

Amane forcefully tugged on the disgruntled Kiriko's arm and headed for the exit.

“Well then, nice to meet you.”

“Hey!”

Amane waved goodbye and headed out of the computer room, but Kiriko quickly shook her hand off.

“I'm sorry for the trouble. I look forward to working with you.” After thanking the engineer, Kiriko hurried off after Amane.

How long did the engineer hold his breath as the door closed? When he was sure they were not coming back, he let out a deep breath. He wiped the sweat from his forehead.

“Is it okay? Doing something like this on your own… I don't know anything about it.” He muttered to himself, still looking towards the door.

“What are you talking about? Bio-enhancement is extremely dangerous.”

Then, Seiryo appeared from behind another terminal behind the engineer.

“Isn't it the role of a real teacher to take every precaution and ensure the safety of their beloved students?”

Seiryo approached the engineer, rested one elbow on the back of the chair, and closed his eyes as if enthralled by his own words. But then,

“That’s a very good attitude.”

A third party's voice that shouldn't have been there echoed through the room.

“Ah… ahhhh!”

When the engineer looked in that direction, he saw the person he least wanted to see.

“Hmph… He's lucky to have a kind teacher like me. For a student who is not doing so well, I have to be sure and then check again and then check again.”

However, Seiryo was completely unaware and was absorbed in his own words.

“Oh, uh, um, um.” The engineer poked Seiryo with a trembling voice…

“Stop screwing around and get to work!”

He closed his eyes, rested his elbows on the chair, and slapped the engineer's hand as if to shoo away a pesky fly.

“Seiryo-san… Seiryo-san!”

“What’s going on? You’re so noisy… What's going on?”

At this point, Seiryo finally looked at the engineer.

“…What are you doing? Stop looking away and get to work…What are you pointing at?” Seiryo looked in the direction the engineer was pointing with an annoyed look on his face…

“That's amazing, Tennan-sensei. I can't believe you care so much about your students.”

Mikami was sitting with a smile on her face in the chair at the terminal opposite where Seiryo had been hiding earlier.

“…Ha…haha…hahaha. That's only natural for a teacher!” Seiryo spoke with a smile on his face and sweat dripping down his face like a toad surrounded by mirrors.

“Hohoho. But it's nothing to do with your job, so it must be hard.”

“No, no, if you think about the students, this is nothing.”

“That's not something that can be done easily.”

“Well, as a member of the Tennan family, I'm just doing what comes naturally.”

“Your parents must have given you a good education. I envy you for having such wonderful parents.”

“Hahaha. My father and mother would be happy to know that you said that about them.”

“Your students are so lucky to have a teacher like you.”

“Ahhh hahaha! Right, right.”

Seiryo was so nervous that he couldn't stop talking, as if he was covering up the lie with more lies. What was worse, Mikami was amused and just let him babble, wondering how long it would last.

(I-it'd be better if I was yelled at…Help me)

Extreme tension reigned, and the engineer with decent nerves screamed inaudibly.

After leaving the computer room, the two walked in silence, with Amane at the front, back to the school building where the teachers lounge was.

“… Hmm?”

As she was about to go up the stairs, Amane happened to look towards the field and noticed some students chatting away on the grounds.

“Class has already started, right?”

“Yes, it should have.”

As soon as she heard that, Amane ran towards the students.

“What happened to your teacher?”

When Amane called out, a murmur ran through the students.

“It’s Amane Kaunaq!”

Fingu from the Amane fan club was the first to speak up.

“She’s wearing a teacher's uniform!”

As the curriculum had not yet begun, Amane's appointment as a temporary instructor has not yet been officially announced. That's why the freshmen in particular were so excited to suddenly see Amane.

“Ah.”

When Amane realized her mistake and stopped, Fingu took advantage of the opportunity to rush over.

“I, I'm your fan!”

Fingu sparked a wave of fans and curious onlookers as they surged towards Amane.

“Oh no!”

Amane ran back in the direction she came from before she was surrounded.

“What are you doing?”

Kiriko stepped in front of the students to protect Amane.

“Hey you guys!”

However…

“Oh, it's Masaki Kiriko!”

This time it was Elroy, a member of the Kiriko fan club, who shouted.

The students rushed towards Kiriko, who had gained even more fans following the recent broadcast of the interview with Seina.

“Huh?”

Kiriko, who was unaware of the situation, was stunned, and in that moment of carelessness, she was surrounded by a flock of students who had rushed over.

“K-Kiriko-san, I saw you on the military parade broadcast and I thought you looked great!”

“I was at immigration!”

“I was working as a guide at the GP central office…"

“What is your relationship with Seina?”

The crowd of students began shouting and asking for autographs.

“Hey, wait a second… Amane!”

Kiriko tried to call Amane for help, but she was nowhere to be found.

In the end, it was surprisingly Seiryo who rescued her from the group of students.

“What are you all doing?! Class has started, everyone gather on the field!”

Suddenly, the students heard Seiryo's angry roar, and they scattered like a school of small fish being attacked by a larger one, before gathering back together in a line on the field once again.

“…Thank goodness…”

Kiriko, who had been released from the students, collapsed on the spot. Amane reached out to help her.

“Are you okay?”

“Amane! It's terrible that you ran away alone.” She roughly grabbed Amane's hand and stood up.

“In that case, it can't be helped. Besides, I was the one who called that idiot.”

“Th-That's right…Thank you. You saved me.”

Kiriko answered awkwardly to Amane, who looked very displeased.

“Oh, and more importantly, Seina isn't among the students.”

“Oh… that reminds me.”

If Seina was there, he would have tried to help Kiriko. Kiriko immediately noticed and looked towards the students.

“Everyone… Hey, what happened to Yamada Seina?”

Seiryo, who had discovered Mikami's evil plan and was planning to vent his frustration by taking it out on Seina, also noticed that Seina was not there.

“You bastard, you got away!”

“Seina-kun wouldn't run away!” Kiriko said loudly.

“!?”

Seiryo, Amane, and the students stared in amazement.

“Seina-kun wouldn't run away!”

“Thank you, Masaki-sensei, but Yamada is not here.”

Seiryo was a little taken aback by Kiriko’s pressure of as she approached him. Kenneth and Rajau spoke to the two of them timidly.

“Um… Seina was taken away in an ambulance after morning classes.”

“Miki-senpai arranged for a medical capsule to help him recover.”

“What?!”

“What did you say?”

Seiryo and Kiriko simultaneously confronted Kenneth and Rajau.

“Is that true?”

“Yes. We were told that he would be brought here for the afternoon class…”

“Damn you, Yamada Seina! What a sneaky move!”

In contrast to Seiryo, who clenched his fists and became angry at Rajau's words, Kiriko took off running like a rabbit toward the school building.

“Seiryo, you continue with your lesson. Kiriko and I will go and check on Yamada-kun.” Amane, sensing Kiriko's intention as she suddenly ran off, told Seiryo and ran off after her.

“Wait! I'm the one who brought him here!”

“Missing class? It'll be a problem if Mikami-sama finds out.”

“Ugh! Everyone line up!”

Seiryo turned back to the students with a frustrated look on his face.

Once she was somewhere where she wouldn't be heard by anyone else, Kiriko called out to Hakuren and the others who were supposed to be guarding Seina.

“Hakuren! Karen, Gyokuren or Suiren! Is there anyone out there?”

“What's wrong, Kiriko?” Hakuren responded immediately.

“Is Seina there?”

“Yeah, he's still in the medical capsule.”

“Check it out now!”

“!”

Perhaps sensing something from Kiriko's urgency, Hakuren and Gyokuren unlocked the balcony entrance and went inside.

“… This is!”

When they opened the capsule, Seina was nowhere to be seen; instead, it contained a synthetic body that looked like him.

“When did this happen?!”

“Hakuren, where's Seina?”

Kiriko, with a pale face, came running towards Hakuren, who was shocked.

“I'm sorry…Kiriko.”

Pushing aside the dejected Hakuren, Kiriko checked inside the capsule.

“No way!… Damn it!”

Kiriko's bitten lip was bleeding. Suppressing the urge to scream, Kiriko quickly regained her composure and began giving instructions to Hakuren and her team.

“Contact Mikami! Check the whereabouts of Miki Steinbeck and the emergency vehicle records, and check the route it took from the field to here. And then… Call Amane.”

The Renka was a small spaceship used by Hakuren and her team.

On the bridge, Kiriko, Hakuren, and Amane were checking Seina's movement record.

“Miki Steinbeck is missing. There are no signs of tampering with the ambulance or capsule, and there are no suspicious points in the travel log. There are also no suspicious points in the route of travel. The elevator to the medical room, which is the most suspicious, also showed no signs of tampering…”

The reports that came in one after the other were all dead-ends.

“We are also tracking and investigating the vehicles that have gone out of the area, but…”

Thirty minutes had passed since the incident was discovered, and they still couldn't find a trace of Seina.

“It's always like this…” Kiriko muttered quietly.

“I'll let Seina-chan do what he wants… every time I think that…”

“I'm sorry, Kiriko. I…”

Hakuren, with an even more distressed look on her face than Kiriko, hung her head.

“Both of you, now is not the time to discuss that.” Amane said calmly, staring at Seina's movement record.

“Yes, that's true… but!”

Although it was a valid point, Amane's words sounded cold, and Kiriko frowned. However, Amane didn't seem to care and started speaking as if to interrupt Kiriko.

“More importantly, Kiriko… based on this record, there was nothing unusual about the transfer from the field to the medical room…”

Amane showed Miki shooing students away from the field, then the footage zoomed in on the underside of the ambulance, where it was in contact with the ground.

“What's this about?”

“Hey, that's a cloud of dust, isn’t it?”

Where Amane was pointing, the image showed a thin plume of dust rising from the small gap where the rescue vehicle had landed.

“Ah!”

Kiriko and Hakuren shouted at the same time. And in the next moment, they all rushed towards Renka's teleportation device.

“Dammit… Why, why me?! You guys are too slow, stop running so slowly, speed up!!”

Seiryo stood in the center of the field, yelling in frustration.

“Oh, by the way, Rajau, you said that GP and military instructors are all like that, right?” With a pained look on his face, Kenneth spoke to Rajau running next to him.

“This is just a case of taking out one's anger on someone.”

“I knew it.”

Not only Kenneth, but all the students nodded in agreement with Rajau's words as they ran off without hiding their scowls.

“Damn it. I hope that old driver hits him again.”

Just as Kenneth shouted that, a small rumble echoed across the field.

“Hmm, what is that?”

At just that moment, Seiryo noticed something strange on the ground and looked down.

BAM

“Gwaaaaw!”

An explosion erupted from the ground beneath Seiryo's feet, sending him flying high into the air, along with blocks of rock and earth.

The students sent Seiryo off with applause. Amane and the others who had been teleported from Renka also clapped.

—About 30 minutes before Seiryo was launched.

“……”

The first thing Seina felt when he regained consciousness was gravity.

The comfortable floating feeling he had before falling asleep was gone, and the pain in his neck was similar to the pain he felt when he fell asleep while sitting on a bus. He also felt a slightly uncomfortable sense of restraint.

“Are you awake?”

“!”

Alarmed by the unfamiliar voice, Seina's instantly awoke and regained all sensation in his body.

He quickly looked around using only his eyes.

In the pitch black room, only the faint lights of several instruments could be seen, and judging from the reflection of the light and the echoing sounds of the machines, the room seemed to be quite spacious. Then, illuminated by the faint light, he saw that he was strapped to a chair and in front of him was a middle-aged man in a white lab coat.

He was a thin man with shaggy hair and small round glasses, looking nervous and very much like a scientist.

“Hmm… You were quick to understand the situation after awakening.” The man mumbled.

“Persperation level, heartbeat, pulse, etc. are normal. I thought you would be a bit more agitated, but you seem pretty calm.”

“Well… I had a similar experience a few days ago.”

A bad sense of déjà vu. This was exactly what happened when Elma and her friends were hunting humans.

“Hmm. That was quite a fuss.” The man looked nervous, but his tone was somewhat laid back.

“Are you perhaps related to Miki-senpai?”

“I’m sorry.” A voice came from behind Seina.

With an awkward look on her face, she took a roundabout way forward, trying to distance herself from Seina.

“Sorry for the late introduction. I’m Hiroshi Manada, Miki’s father. Nice to meet you.”

“Manada? Miki-senpai and… Ugh!”

As he said this, Miki suddenly covered Seina's mouth.

“Let's not talk about last names, because it will just make things complicated.” Glaring at him with a ferocious expression, Miki whispered in a low voice.

“Hey, what's wrong, Miki?”

“It's nothing. I was just apologizing for the situation.”

“Really? Well, I guess so. I did drag you here against you will, after all.

His somewhat laid-back tone suggested he was a kind person, but what he was actually doing was kidnapping and imprisoning someone.

“…So, in a situation like this, I’m going to be used as an experimental subject?”

“Yes, if I can analyze your powers, I can get into the philosophy department!” He clenched his fist, brought his face close to Seina and explained forcefully.

“Philosophy department?”

“You don't know?” He looked incredulous.

“Now that I think about it, I remember a friend telling me… that it was a weird group of people.”

“…Well, geniuses are not always understood in any era.”

While her father shook his head in denial, Miki nodded vigorously in aggrement.

(You're got it rough, Miki-senpai… But even though you're struggling with all those issues, you're still caring in the end, just like Kiriko-san.)

“And so, let's begin the experiment right away. As they say, time is money.”

Hiroshi grabbed the huge, old-fashioned handle-type switch next to him.

“Oh, wait a minute! I'm not ready yet!”

“Now switch on!”

Ignoring Seina's screams, Hiroshi flipped the switch with a clang. Bright sparks began to occur everywhere.

“Hah~~hah~hah! Now, show me your mystical power!”

“M-Miki-senpai!”

Seina asked Miki for help, but she just clasped her hands together as if to say

“I'm sorry.”

“!?”

Suddenly, Seina felt like he had seen this scene somewhere before. Seina looked at Miki and their eyes met as Miki looked at Seina with equal puzzlement.

(??)

Just as he was seized by a strange sensation, one of the machines exploded.

“Wh-what?! Whoa!”

As soon as Hiroshi tried to approach the machine, it triggered a chain of explosions.

The energy from the explosions were blocked by the shield, but it was fluctuating unsteadily.

“No!”

Miki released Seina from his restraints and pointed toward the exit, then pulled her stunned father by his white coat and headed toward the exit.

“My, my research! All the materials I've accumulated over the years!”

“Your life is more important than that!” For some reason, Miki's face looked very happy as she yelled.

Miki and Seina were called into the principal's office, still covered in soot.

“I see, it was underground, under the field… well, there are a lot of suspicious abandoned facilities in the Academy, hahaha.” Mikami laughed with a wry expression, one that seemed both confused and amazed.

Even Mikami was a bit shocked to find out that a mysterious facility had been built underground in her school without her knowledge.

“I apologize for any inconvenience. I will accept any punishment you deem necessary.” Miki said, her face bright red as she bowed deeply.

“Very well. I will now suspend you for one month.”

“I understand… But what about my father?”

Miki was more concerned about her father, a far cry from her own treatment.

“For now, I guess he'll have to repair the damaged field. We'll work him so hard that he

won't be able to think about anything else."

This meant that the case would not be treated as a criminal offense, and that he would receive a salary while cleaning up the scene.

"Thank you."

"???"

Seina watched the exchange curiously.

"Miki-san, that's all I have to say about your punishment. Seina-kun.

"Y-yes!

Seina quickly stood at attention.

"We've had a string of unfortunate incidents, but we've finally found a solution to restore the system. We'll proceed with your bio-enhancement tomorrow. Is that okay?"

"Uh… Oh, yes!"

"Thank you, Seina." As soon as they left the principal's office, Miki bowed deeply and thanked him.

"Huh?"

"All of his research materials and equipment were destroyed, so I think Dad will give up now."

"But… is that okay?"

"You don't need to worry. I helped kidnap you, hoping that this would happen. So it's okay to be angry."

The reason why Miki looked happy when she ran away from the lab was because she wanted her father to give up on his research.

"That's just the way it is for me. More importantly, I feel sorry for Miki-senpai's father…"

"Thanks. But if he can't even be an assistant in the philosophy department, there's no way he could be a regular student. Besides…"

"Besides?"

"If he gives up on his reckless idea of entering the philosophy department now, mom might come back."

"I-I see… but I still feel a bit sorry for him…"

“Oh my, so you would prefer my family to remain broken?” She moved closer with a sulky look on her face.

PPPP

“No way! No way…”

“Hehe. But I was hoping that it would go well.”

“Uh… sorry.”

“Oh wait… that's not quite right. It's not for Dad’s sake.”

With that, Miki stepped away from Seina a little and looked him up from head to toe.

“Before the machine exploded… I felt like I had seen that scene somewhere before…”

“Huh?”

“Maybe… you too?” She asked, trying to gauge Seina's reaction.

“Well, yeah…”

“Hmm… Maybe it's an effect of the Seed Project.”

“The Seed Project?”

“I only heard bits and pieces from my dad, so I don't know much about it. But, a great prehistoric civilization that had an area of influence across almost the entire galaxy before it fell… Though, in reality, it only split into smaller civilizations and declined, but during that period of decline, they scattered trillions of biological spaceships designed to modify planets across the galaxy in an attempt to preserve their genes, civilization, and their very concepts of memory.”

“That's incredible. So this could be a memory from that?”

“It’s possible. Some people even say it's a memory from a previous life…” Having said that, Miki hesitated.

“That's ridiculous. There's no such thing as a past life, hehe.” He shook his head and laughed.

“You think so?”

“You're just imagining things. Anyway, let's forget about this. If you say something like this again, your father might get interested and it will be a big problem.”

“Y-yes.”

“Besides, it must be hard for you, Seina, to make excuses to your classmates right before lights out.” Miki winked mischievously.

“Did you happen to see the interview?”

“My teammates thought it was funny. Now I have to go back to the dorms. See you later.”

Miki waved lightly and walked quickly to the end of the passageway, in the opposite direction from Seina.

After watching Miki leave, Seina turned around and found Kenneth and Rajau standing in front of him.

“I see… tomorrow.”

When Kiriko heard from Mikami in the principal's office that the system repairs had been completed, she had mixed emotions.

(Tomorrow, Seina's Bio-Enhancement…)

The abduction of Seina that had just taken place had not caused a dangerous incident, but it had certainly made Kiriko anxious. But now, looking out the window of the principal's office, the sight of Seina's classmates celebrating that he was safe was something she had never seen on Earth… no, she could not even imagine it.

(Seina-chan… looks happy)

The sight overcame Seina's anxiety about the crisis.

“Looks like everyone's here.”

Kiriko turned around when Mikami spoke and finally noticed Amane, Hakuren, and the others who were in charge of guarding Seina. She quickly joined the rest in lining up.

“Although this incident ended without any serious consequences, it was clearly a mistake. However, this time only, I have decided not to report this to Airi-sama or Seto-sama.”

Hearing Mikami's words, everyone breathed a sigh of relief, but it was for the purpose of saving Miki and Hiroshi, not for them.

“We will treat this incident as a training exercise, so we will handle the aftermath internally. Although this incident has had some effect on the system, it has been decided that the curriculum will resume tomorrow, so we would like you to repair it and rewrite the records by the end of today.”

“Y-Yes.”

Kiriko noticed Mikami's eyes on her and nodded slightly.

“Now, everyone please get to work.”

As soon as Mikami finished speaking, the floor opened up, revealing a control room with many desks underneath. Everyone began working at their own positions.

“If you’re going to talk to Seina today, you should go now.”

“… Mikami-sama, could you please tell Seina that I can't make it today?”

“Are you okay with that?”

I'm just need to …… sort out my feelings a little.” Kiriko said thoughfully as she headed towards an empty terminal.

“Okay.”

Without saying anything more, Mikami returned to her seat.

Kiriko and her team were done in about three hours. Because she was familiar with the new system, all of the Academy's systems were quickly restored.

Kiriko declined Amane's invitation to dinner and went home. She calmly ate a simple meal of leftovers. During that time, she tried not to think about Seina at all.

She brewed her favorite hot green tea and sipped it, waiting for her mind to calm down.

(It's finally tomorrow)

Kiriko recalled, one by one, the hectic days since Seina launched into space from Earth to the present day, as if turning the pages of a book.

He was pursued by hundreds of pirate ships, thousands of criminals, and those who wanted to take advantage of him…

The degree of risk to his life was incomparable to what it had been on Earth. Moreover, if he became a GP member, the chances of that happening would increase even more.

However, even though Kiriko wanted him to return to Earth, seeing him endure Seiryo's unreasonable treatment and form relationships that were probably treasures to Seina, made Kiriko's resolve waver.

“I'll take a bath and think about it.”

She thought that if she stretched out in her favorite spacious bathroom, she would be able to calm down and sort out her thoughts.

“Whew…”

When she took off her constricting clothes and floated in the hot water, she felt a sense of security and freedom, like being in her mother's womb. As her tense body relaxed, her thoughts that had been stuck in a dead-end also began to free themselves.

“No matter how unlucky Seina is, that's just too abnormal.”

He attracted many pirates and criminals. The sheer number was uincomparable to when he was on Earth. “It's true that since Seina was born, the number of pirates approaching Earth has increased dramatically… so there should be more of them.”

—The difference between Seina-chan’s time on Earth and his time in space is…

“The distance traveled! That’s right… Seina-chan has hardly ever left his home town since he was born. The furthest he’s ever been is to go to the beach…”

Even when Seina escaped from the dormitory, he traveled farther than he had traveled between his home town and the beach.

“Elementary school field trips, social studies field trips, school trips…”

Thinking about it like that made Kiriko feel depressed.

“…I see, most of those events were canceled due to heavy rain, accidents, or illness…”

In the end, the school quickly gave up on trying to get Seina to go with them due to the numerous obstacles they faced. And when Seina himself realized that he was a nuisance to others, he began to skip school events of his own accord.

However, whenever Kai or Kiriko tried to do something with Seina, he always said with a bright smile…

“Go and check it out for me.”

Before she knew it, tears were filling Kiriko's eyes.

At that moment, the sound of a call echoed through the bathroom.

“!”

She quickly dove into the hot water to wash her crying face and took a deep breath.

“Yes, who is it?”

“It's me, Kiriko. How are you?”

A familiar voice echoed in the bathroom.

“Oh, mother…”

When she turned the video on, Tsukiko's face appeared.

“What do you want?” Kiriko said somewhat dismissively.

“Oh, you seem to be in a bad mood.”

“It's probably about Seina, right?”

“Well, you could say that…”

“Then you must have heard from Minaho-sama, right?” She interrupted Tsukiko angrily.

“Haha, same as always.”

“This is no laughing matter! It was really dangerous! Even today…”

She was about to say that, but quickly swallowed the words. Today's incident was strictly under the pretext of training.

“He was kidnapped and held captive, wasn't he?”

“You know?”

“From Minaho-sama.” Her face seemed to say, “Of course.”

(I see… Mikami-sama only said “I won't report it”, she didn't say “I'll hide it.”)

It was only natural then that Seto would find out.

“Hiroshi is a bit of a problem, isn’t he?”

“Hiroshi… You know him?”

“Yes, we've known each other for a long time.” Tsukiko answered candidly.

Because Tsukiko didn't talk about herself much, Kiriko knew almost nothing about her mother's past.

“But I didn't know he had a daughter… I didn't know he was married before that…”

“Mom, I don't care about the family of your old friend! The problem is that he got caught up in that kind of trouble.”

“It was just a little prank, right? It happens all the time at the Academy.”

“Just this once, hey! It doesn't always have to be like this.”

“That's why he has such an high-level guard, right? Seto-sama's subordinates, Airi-sama, and Mikami-sama are there too. And Washu-sama seems to be thinking about something, Tenchi-chan…”

“Why!” Kiriko cried out in distress.

Kiriko, who had thought that her mother, who knew the situation well, would be on her side, felt cornered.

“…Why does everyone want to put Seina-chan in danger? His talent is tantamount to sacrificing his life…”

“Kiriko…”

“After that incident… I learned that there was a high rate of pirates and illegal collectors coming to Earth… If we really wanted to protect Seina-chan, we should have looked at it from a broader perspective… What happened this time basically proves that Seina is the cause of the increase in the number of pirates coming to Earth!”

“I'm not saying that we should let Seina stay in space.” She said matter-of-factly, in stark contrast with the pained expression on her daughter’s face.

“What?”

“Plus, I'd be very happy to have my future husband back.”

“…… Huh?”

Kiriko stared at Tsukiko in shock at her mother's unexpected answer. All of her previous momentum was gone.

“Didn't you hear? My future husband♡”

“I-I heard it! I heard it! But… I don't understand it.” She muttered in a daze, as if she had been overheated by the hot water.

“Oh, Kiriko, have you ever thought about Seina's future? Of course, provided he returns to Earth.”

“…… His future?”

“I heard from Kyouko-san that Seina has been shunned by many high schools.”

Her slow, soothing tone finally brought Kiriko's thoughts back to normal.

“Oh, yeah, I've heard about that too. But couldn’t he go to the high school that Tenchi and I went to.”

(TN: In Tenchi 101, it was specifically stated that Katsuhito has deep connections to the school Tenchi used to go to in Kurashiki city which is why he was allowed to violate the dress code and have long hair, logically Kiriko would have gone there too.)

“It's quite a distance away, so it might be difficult for him to commute… both to him and to the people who live along the way.”

“Uh! Well… I guess so.”

“As for going to high school, I heard that Nobuyuki-san would take care of it, so that's fine… but what about college? That's even more impossible. Even if we find a university that doesn't know about Seina-chan, it won't be close by, so he'd have to rent a room somewhere and live alone? Or live in a dorm? Do you think that's possible?”

“But there are also correspondence universities…”

“So what about jobs? Even if high schools and universities shun him, students are still their customers. Since he’ll pay tuition, maybe something could be worked out.”

“Ah, ah.”

—That's right, there's no way they'd hire someone who would cause losses to the company.

“It's probably impossible for him to take over the family's store.”

“But… he has enough money. He won’t have any trouble getting by!”

“Where should he live? His parents’ place? Of course, with Seina-chan's reward money, the whole family would be set, but after you erase his memory, how do you explain that?”

“Uh! Th-that's something I'll think about later…”

“But is it okay to do that to him?”

“……”

As she continued to press her, Kiriko finally fell silent.

“Did you know? The Yamada Store is doing really well right now. Not only is the store open, but the entire premises are filled with customers and they have an open-air market.”

“Is that… can it be… because Seina-chan is gone?”

“That's probably a reasonable way to think about it. Of course, the reason they were able to grow as fast as they have at such an early stage was because they were able to use the bonus money that you sent them to buy supplies.”

“But that doesn't mean I can let Seina-chan stay in space like this!”

“Then don't you think it's more likely that Seina-chan will live in Masaki village?”

“Ah!”

For the locals untroubled by Seina, it was the perfect place to get rid of him. Masaki Village would gladly take him in, and if that stabilized his families finances, it couldn't be better.

“If he's going to live in Masaki Village, it’s only natural that he’d stay with us, right? Kai will probably go to space after the ceremony is over and he finds out the truth. Once he leaves, it'll just be me and Seina.”

“M-Mom… but, you know, there are plenty of vacant houses in the village…”

“Hehe. Hey Kiriko… You're not the only one who thinks Seina-chan is cute. I've been watching Seina for the same amount of time as you… No, even after you went into space, I continued to watch over him.”

In other words, Tsukiko was intentionally taking things in that direction. If that was the case, then the inferences so far were pretty conclusive.

“Oh, oh, oh, oh …… oh ……. Um, Dai-san,…… no, what about Kai’s dad…”

“Since Kiriko left… Seina-chan, well, he’s started making these mature expressions that make my heart skip a beat…”

“Don't ignore me! What about Kai’s father?!”

“Shut up. I wasn't married to him in the first place. He's Kai's father, but he's not my husband. And if Kai goes into space, he won't have much reason to come back home.” She said coldly.

Whenever the topic of Kai's father came up, Tsukiko always reacted like this.

Kiriko didn't know what happened between Tsukiko and Kai's father in the past. Tsukiko herself wouldn't talk about it, and when Kai's father tried to talk about it, Tsukiko beat him almost to death and chased him away.

(The fact that he repeats the same thing every time he visits is impressive, or should I say, a sign of a lack of learning ability… Well, given Mom's personality, it's hard to believe that she and Dai-san were in a romantic relationship in the past…)

Kai's frivolous and careless personality was something he inherited from his father. Kiriko was sometimes a little annoyed by that side of him. But Kai's father was on a whole different level, so it was only natural that he and Tsukiko didn't get along.

“…So what about you and Seina-chan?”

“Oh? In another ten years… don't you think we'd make a perfect couple?”

“……”

As a Masaki, she would live far longer than the average Earthling. Even ten years from now… no, even a hundred years from now, she would likely look the same. If that were the case…

“Y-You're right. Once Seina returns to Earth… it wouldn't be strange if that happened.” Kiriko looked away and said a little sulkily.

“And when it does…”

“What if that happens?”

“Of course, I'll have to tell him who I am.”

“…No way!”

“If that happens, I'll let Seina do what he wants♡”

Doing what Seina wants - which meant going to space in the end.

“You've got to be kidding me! Are you going to put Seina in danger again?”

“Hey Kiriko. Right now you are Seina-chan's guardian, but that will no longer be the case once he returns to Earth. Whatever choice Seina-chan makes as an adult, it is up to me and Seina to decide.”

“But!”

“In sickness and in health … we will live together and die together… I am prepared for that. I will protect you in my own way, Seina-chan. And I'm sure you will protect me in your own way.”

“……”

Kiriko couldn't say anything more.

When Kiriko was still a child and did not know who she was, she decided to protect Seina. She could vaguely see the future that Tsukiko had spoken of as her and Seina's future.

But going into space meant cutting off all direct contact with Seina. When Kiriko decided to go into space, she buried that future in the back of her mind.

However, with Seina's arrival in space, the connection that had been severed was reconnected.

(I want to… But I can’t!) Kiriko desperately denied the thought.

(This is purely for my own satisfaction and does not guarantee Seina-chan's safety.)

“Well, it's a good thing …… You didn't think of that.”

“M-Mom?!”

Kiriko was so surprised that her heart was read right through that she almost jumped up.

“You’re still young… so there’s no need for you to worry. You should think about your own happiness.”

“What are you talking about? I didn't say that for myself, I said that because I was thinking about Seina-chan!”

“Yes… I see. Anyway, you still has the final say on what to do from now on. You still have the baton, you know.”

With that said, the communication was cut off.

(It doesn't matter whether I send Seina back to Earth or not.)

To cool her head, which was feeling a little hot, she poured cold water over it, drank a cup of cold tea, and then got back into the bathtub, stretching her arms and legs as far as she could.

“That's right! It's fine if Seina himself feels safest on Earth. Even if he ends up in a relationship with my mother after that, we won't force him to stay on Earth if that's what he wants to do.”

When she came to this conclusion, Kiriko felt a sense of loneliness, as if she was the only one in the world, and a strange sense of liberation.

“Oh Airi-sama, this is terrible!” Elma, looking unusually pale, came rushing into the chairman's office.

“Oh, Elma. Good thing I was just about to call you…”

Elma must have been in a hurry, because when she reached Airi, she was slumped on the floor, breathing heavily.

“What happened?”

“Uh, uh…um…”

“Don't push yourself. Take a deep breath.”

After hearing Airi's words, Elma took several deep breaths and finally seemed to calm down. She stood up unsteadily.

“Airi-sama, something bad has happened! Seina-kun's personal data has disappeared along with that idol AI!”

“What the hell?!”

Even Airi understood why Elma was so shocked.

“I was informed that the virus had been removed, so I tried to return the idol AI “Kirche” to

her parents, but…”

Saying this, Elma opened one of the monitors. A CG image of what looked like the room of a sheltered young lady was displayed on the screen, with something resembling a letter placed on the desk.

“Please don't search for me?” The letter said.

“Apparently, after the net system was restored, she ran away.”

"More than just running away… it seems like she eloped. Is it possible that she went back to her father?"

“I checked and it seems she hasn't returned. However, there have been no reports of a system failure so far.”

“So… I'm pretty sure that AI was the original data with the astral?”

“Yes. I thought for sure it was a copy of Seina's personal data that had been brought over from somewhere… but all traces of its movement had been erased, and when I searched the data, there were decoys scattered all over the place, so it was impossible to track it…”

“Based on this text… it seems like Kirche is in charge.”

“Haa……”

“You did it, Seina… your personal…”

“Don't be so carefree… We need to get started quickly! If you would allow me to search the data in the higher levels…”

“Let's stop this.”

“Huh?”

“Unless it has an effect on the system, it's a different story, but if there are no problems so far, then it's probably okay to leave it alone. Kirche is an AI with astral, and is an adult, having been born over twenty years ago, so let's leave it to her will.”

“…Are you sure?”

“It would be troubling if it was revealed that it was Seina's personal data that kidnapped her, and that Elma and the others were the ones that caused it all. So let's just consider her feelings and keep an eye on her for a while.”

This was a brilliant attempt to avoid responsibility.

“I see.”

“That's all about Seina's personal life for now… But more importantly, I'd like to ask you about Seina himself… No, this is an order, yes?

“…An order?”

“You're responsible for this incident.” Airi looked at Elma and smiled.

Chapter Six: Teacher, Sister, and Lover?

The next morning, Seina woke up earlier than usual.

Not because today was the long-awaited day to perform the Bio-Enhancement, but because today was the day he would settle things with Kiriko.

When he received a message from Mikami yesterday, he wasn't told what had happened to Kiriko, but he could guess that it had to do with the incident with Miki.

Kiriko didn't contact him after that, and no specific date or time was promised, but Seina had a hunch.

(I guess I have to be the one to say it.)

Up until now, Seina had never disagreed with what Kiriko said, because he knew that she always had his best interests at heart, and sadly, because he had no other choice.

But here, for Seina, an unreachable dream was a reality, even if it meant a massive increase in the risk of losing his life.

(Usually, there would be no dreams and only the risk of losing my life.)

When he thought about it that way, it seemed strangely funny.

“What are you laughing about in your bed?”

“Are you okay?”

Before he knew it, Kenneth and Rajau were standing next to his bed, peering in.

“Are you still suffering from the aftereffects of yesterday?”

“Nope. I was just thinking about something.”

He hastily sat up.

“Hmm, that must be about Miki-senpai from yesterday!”

With that, Kenneth suddenly put Seina in a headlock.

“Come on, confess!”

He shake his head a little violently.

“N-no, that's not it.”

“You two look energetic early in the morning. By the way, what would you like for breakfast?”

For Seina, even just playing with ordinary friends was a treasure.

Trivial conversations, meals as usual. Being chased by a boar on the way to school, and other mishaps, everything was fun at the Academy.

(I need to settle this.) As he was thinking that,

“Room 193, Kenneth Bāru and Rajau Ga Waura, please come to the dormitory supervisor’s office.” The monitor suddenly turned on and an instructor announced.

“What does it mean, just the two of us?”

“I don't know. We'll find out when we get there. Anyway, Seina, you can go to school first.” Kenneth said, standing up.

“Eh, but…”

“If you're going to do Bio-Enhancement today, you must have a lot of preparations to make, right? We'll follow after we've finished talking.” Kenneth left the room with Rajau.

However, in the end, Kenneth and Rajau never caught up with Seina, and when Seina arrived at the GP Academy, he headed directly to the teachers lounge where Kiriko waited.

“Good morning.”

Just as Seina had predicted, Kiriko was in the hallway in front of the lounge, looking out at the field where Seina had been training just the day before.

“Good morning, Seina. Hey, do you want to go to the beach?”

Seina nodded slightly at Kiriko's words.

“You're really motivated, Seina-sama.”

“And Kiriko too.”

It wasn't just the people involved who were feeling nervous. Hakuren and the other girls were feeling the same way.

“But I'm feeling a bit reluctant. I understand that we have to protect Seina-sama, but…”

“That's right. From this point on, it would be rude for an outsider to intrude.”

Even though it was work, Hakuren felt uneasy about listening into Seina and Kiriko's

discussion. However, Hakuren and the others had to protect Seina. And they couldn't afford to make the same mistake as yesterday.

“… Ah, something's wrong with the monitoring nanoprobe.”

Suiren, who had been silent up until then, suddenly stopped controlling the nanoprobe.

“Surveillance cameras seem to be affected as well.”

Following suit, Hakuren also turned off the camera.

—**Mikagami's Bridge**

"Seto-sama, it seems there has been an issue with the video and audio coming from Seina’s guards. The cause is unknown, and only the telephoto footage is usable."

After hearing the operator's report, Minaho sighed softly and looked at Seto.

“How do you like that?”

Minaho immediately saw through Hakuren and the others' lies and looked troubled.

“It must be a glitch. Well, that's normal at the Academy.”

“Are you sure?”

“That's not a pretty lie. Besides, there's no point in having these girls stick around for Seina-sama if they're too opinionated.” Seto smiled with satisfaction.

“Wow…!”

“What a sight!” exclaimed Seina, running over to the fence on the quay. Kiriko followed a little behind and walked up alongside Seina.

Below them, the sea was shining blue with its splashing waves and reflected light.

“What a beautiful sea…”

“When we were on Earth, the three of us, Seina, Kai and I, used to go to the beach a lot.”

“Yeah. I got stung by a jellyfish, I nearly drowned, I cut my foot on a broken glass bottle…”

Seina took a few steps back from the fence he had put his hands on. The wooden fence looked sturdy enough, but he wanted to be extra careful.

“Heh.”

Kiriko smiled as she looked at Seina, perhaps remembering the past, then her expression became a little serious and she lowered her gaze.

“…Seina-chan…”

“Yes?”

“After all that hard training… you still want to become a GP…?”

“Eh…? Um… well, I guess so. The training is hard, but I'll be able to get Bio-Enhancement soon…”

Kiriko smiled a little sadly at Seina's words.

“Hey, do you know? If you receive GP Bio-Enhancement… you will no longer be able to live on Earth the way you did before.”

“What……?”

For Seina, that was a bit of a surprise.

“There are different kinds of Bio-Enhancement, the GP one is for quasi-combat purposes… It fundamentally changes the composition of a person's body in certain areas. Naturally, Earth's medical technology would recognize that immediately. You won't be able to see a doctor on Earth.”

“Uh… I see.”

For Seina, the hospital was the third most familiar place to him after home and school. Not being able to see a doctor was like not being able to return to Earth.

“It's hard to imagine Seina-chan having nothing to do with hospitals. It's utterly unthinkable, but…”

Kiriko's hands clenched tightly.

“In the worst case scenario, to maintain confidentiality, even potentially life-saving injuries may be erased!”

“Huh…?!”

Seina stared blankly at Kiriko.

“But… if that's even possible…”

“That's what you’re here for, isn’t it, Seina-chan!”

“Th-that's…”

That was completely true, so he couldn't argue with her.

(Indeed, if I was taken to the hospital after some kind of accident and there was no one else who knew about it, and I was the only one there…)

With Seina's bad luck, there was a good chance that the media would find out, national organizations would find out, and if things went badly, the whole planet would be in an uproar.

“Seina-chan's family are pure Earthlings, so you will no longer be able to see them as you used to. Their house will become a different world to you.”

“!”

Seina joining the GP meant that he was no longer an Earthling.

(Yes, it's sad to part with my family… but)

Since his time on Earth, Seina has always thought about his future.

Seina felt bad about the trouble he was causing his family because of his presence, and most of the conclusions he came to as a child were to live away from his family. The extreme case would be to live a self-sufficient life alone, deep in the mountains or on a deserted island. If he had never met Kiriko and the others, he would have probably killed himself.

The departure from his family was sudden, but not unexpected. And for Seina, going home now meant giving up his dreams. His hopes for the future were more important to him than the sadness of parting from his family.

(And…)

Returning to Earth would mean losing all contact with Kiriko.

“I'm sorry for scaring you. Of course, even if you undergo Bio-Enhancement, it's possible to return to your original body. If that happens, you can return to Earth and live a normal life. But as long as you remain a GP, it's as I just explained.”

“I see.”

“…I've gotten off topic.”

Kiriko was a little surprised by the calm response and changed her strategy.

“When I heard that you had gone into space, I quickly followed. When I saw the huge number of pirate ships at Seto's ship, I was shocked. I thought, 'How did you survive.' And do you know, Seina? The commotion that night when you ran away from the dorm…”

“Huh? Yeah… on the news.”

“Most of that incident was caused by people who were chasing you.”

“Chasing me?!”

“More than half were just playing around like Elma, but there were also a lot of really dangerous criminals.”

“Does that mean… I'm causing trouble for everyone?”

Seina remembered the news the next day.

He felt bad about his misfortune causing trouble for others.

“Since class A and B criminals were easy pickings, worth a lot of money, Airi-sama and Mikami-sama were delighted, but…”

“Then there’s no problem…”

“I'm talking about the danger to you, Seina-chan! I wouldn't trade your life for any amount of praise or money. The fact that you're here means that this is the kind of work you’ll do.”

Kiriko's anger silenced Seina, but the idea of his life being in danger didn't feel very real to him. A group of pirates or a small rockfall would have been enough to take his life.

“Do you still want to become a GP? Do you still want to stay here, Seina-chan?”

“……”

—Does Kiriko know what he's feeling?

Of course, he never confessed his feelings to her, and he knew that to Kiriko now he was just like a younger brother.

“It's not too late. Go back to Earth, Seina-chan…”

“……”

Kiriko's words were cruel to Seina. They were tantamount to rejecting his feelings.

(I know I'm no match for Kiriko… but)

Seina was trying to become an adult. He wanted to move from being protected to being the protector.

Kiriko's words were tantamount to saying that he would not ever be given that opportunity.

But Seina wondered why he was so calm. In the past, he would have been irritated and would have expressed his feelings one way or another. And at the worst possible time… But now, Seina's feelings for Kiriko were no longer all that mattered.

“… Um…”

Seina looked down, trying to avoid looking at Kiriko. He was hesitant to say it to her face.

“I'm sorry, Kiriko… I still want to become a GP…”

“Why!?”

A sad, pleading look…

“Well, you see, my mom and dad seem to be happy about it, and I have to send them money.”

Seina was confused by Kiriko's expression, and tried to hide it by smiling shyly and scratching his head as he answered. However…

“Don't mess with me, Seina!”

Kiriko's rough tone gave Seina an opportunity to speak. He slowly lowered his hands and turned to Kiriko with a serious expression.

“I want to stay in space. If I miss this chance, I'm sure I'll never get another… I want to get on a spaceship, go to different places, and see different things!”

“But it's dangerous, you might die…”

“Even on Earth!”

Kiriko was interrupted by Seina's strong tone.

“My bad luck won't change even if I'm on Earth! So… if it's going to be the same anyway, I want to be in space.”

“What are you talking about? It's not the same…!”

Intimidated by Seina's sincere gaze, Kiriko's voice lost its strength.

“And…”

At this point, Seina looks away for a moment. It wasn't intentional, it was just reflex.

“Seto-sama was the first person to tell me I was needed… my bad luck… So I want to keep my promise.”

“!!”

Kiriko was frozen, unable to move, with a look of shock on her face.

Seina's words were enough to bring everything crashing down for her. In fact, Seina saying it to her face was the final straw.

—Seto-sama was the first person to tell me that my bad luck was necessary… That's why I want to keep my promise.--

Seina's words kept repeating in Kiriko's head.

(Damn it!)

She clenched her fists so tightly that she drew blood. It was intense jealousy… or perhaps it was more like hatred… for Seto. If Seto were here now, even she would be intimidated by that overwhelming will - not mere desperation, but a nuclear explosion concentrated into a single point – she radiated such an intimidating presence. But soon it was directed not at others, but at herself.

The hatred towards Seto was a way to let off steam, so to speak.

—If it had been directed at her first?

—If Seina had said those words to her face…

It was so intense for Kiriko that it could have even caused her to die of shock.

Kiriko was now barely able to stand.

“You're still young.”

She remember the words of her mother, Tsukiko.

Tsukiko knew.

Seto and Airi knew too.

So, yeah… she ran away.

—From Seina.

—Unable to bear Seina's bad luck.

(I found a convenient reason to run away from Seina.)

Of course, no one criticized her for this, and no one had the right to do so. Without a doubt, it was Kiriko who was most worried about Seina.

“So you don't need to worry. You just need to think about your own happiness.”

That's what Tsukiko told her.

However, the person in question was the one who could least forgive her.

(What am I doing?)

She felt embarrassed, pathetic, and how her words and actions had hurt Seina - it was the beeping of Kiriko's bracelet that broke the barrier of her thoughts, or rather the prison.

“Hahaha! Kiriko, listen to this, that idiot, he's cleaning toilets with Mitoto-sama. Oh yeah, Airi-sama wants you to come to the chairman's office. So hurry up.”

Amane in the monitor window spoke one-sidedly and then disappeared. But at that moment, she was grateful for Amane's carefree insensitivity.

At the same time, Seina also received a call from Rajau.

“Seina. We were told to tell you to go to the 89th infirmary.”

“Yes, thank you.”

Seina breathed a sigh of relief, now having an excuse to escape the awkward atmosphere.

“Ah, well…”

Seina called out to Kiriko, who was looking down. Kiriko looked up in surprise at his voice.

“…Sorry…I… have to go.”

Seina then bowed his head, turned on his heels, and ran off.

“……”

Kiriko stared at his back in silence.

There were no more words for Kiriko to say to Seina. Kiriko's birdcage broke and the little bird flew away.

“……”

Just as she was about to collapse,

“Uh, um… Kiriko-san.” Seina, who had started to run away, suddenly stopped.

“Huh?”

“Um, Kiriko-san… how do I get to the 89th infirmary…” Seina looked up at Kiriko with a helpless look on his face.

“……?”

“Sorry, now that I think about it, I don't know where it is…”

It was unclear whether Seina was aware of this, but it was certainly an offer to mend his relationship with Kiriko.

(Are you still relying on…?)

Then Kiriko realized that the little bird that had escaped from her cage still didn't know how to fly.

(If that's the case…)

Kiriko's thinking has turned a new leaf.

“If you don't know where it is, go here…”

Kiriko started to say that, but then stopped and took Seina's hand.

“Let's go.”

“Huh…?!”

Kiriko pulled the bewildered Seina's arm and started walking.

“Let's go. This way.”

Yes! Kiriko still has the baton.

On Mikagami’s bridge, the operators watching Kiriko and Seina were holding handkerchiefs to their eyes.

“It looks like everything turned out fine.”

Minaho looked at Seto with relief.

Seto was leaning back in the sofa and seemed lost in thought.

“Something on your mind?”

“Well, it's a step forward for now. There will be a lot more to come.”

“Yes, but I feel a bit sorry for Tsukiko.”

“Oh, I don't know.”

“Yes, yes… huh?”

Suddenly, Minaho noticed that the security camera footage was frozen.

“Here, look there.”

Seto turned the monitor in front of her towards Minaho, where Hakuren and the others were, their faces all wet with tears.

“Hopeless girls, huh…?!”

Minaho gave a wry smile, but immediately realized the intention of Seto's gaze.

“Should I tell her?”

“Oh right! I have to tell Tsukiko-chan♡”

Seto quickly rose from her seat and ran to the teleportation gate that would take her to her private room.

“Oh come on! … Haa. Whatever, I'm always the bad guy anyway.”

Minaho sighed heavily as if giving up.

“Hakuren, Karen, Gyokuren, Suiren. Stop wasting time and go after Seina!”

She yelled at Hakuren and her team who were still basking in the afterglow.

Inside the GP Academy's 14992 nd men's restroom, Seiryo was standing there dressed as a cleaner, holding a deck brush.

“Me… cleaning toilets while dressed like this… I was only doing it for the students’ sake, so why can’t they understand my true intentions…”

As Seiryo leaned against a deck brush looking depressed and philosophizing about life, Mitoto popped her head out of her private room and called out to him.

“Come on, Seiryo. You have to hurry.”

It was as if she was speaking to a child.

“Yeessss!”

Perhaps lured in by Mitoto's tone, Seiryo began to brush with a broad, innocent smile, like a child.

“Ah, Seina-kun.”

In front of the 89th infirmary, Elma, wearing a white lab coat, waved to Seina as he approached.

“Thank you for your hard work, Kiriko-san. I'll borrow Seina-kun for a while.”

Elma took Seina's arm and dragged him into her room.

“H-hey, Elma!”

“Hey, Airi-sama is waiting for you, so please hurry.”

She leaned her face closer to Kiriko, smiled, and then closed the door.

“Already……”

Kiriko reflexively reached for the switch to open the door, but quickly stopped.

Kiriko hesitated for a moment, but then seemed to give up and left.

“Um, Elma-san, I was told to come here, but what’s going on…”

“Seina-kun, you’re new to bio-enhancement, so you probably don’t know anything about it, right? So I’m going to give you a little lecture in lieu of counseling. Now, sit here.”

With that, Elma had Seina sit on a round chair.

“What is Bio-Enhancement…?”

As Elma stood in front of Seina with a pointer in hand, a diagram of human neuroanatomy and an explanation of the Bio-Enhancement system were projected onto the wall.

(Even in space, an infirmary is still an infirmary.)

He looked around with an incomprehensible sense of admiration.

“Hey, Seina. Don't look away.”

“Oh, sorry.”

“The technical details are too long to explain here, so I'll just give a brief summary: Bio-Enhancement is the use of nanomachines to reconstitute body tissues into different tissues that dramatically improve strength, athletic performance, endurance, and recovery, and to extend physical life by increasing cellular regeneration. And by increasing the number of times the cells regenerate, the physical lifespan is extended. Understand?”

“Hmm… somehow…”

(That was quite a summary.) Seina thought, but as Elma had said, she didn't think he would be able to understand a detailed explanation, and he wasn't interested, so he didn't say anything more. Besides, Seina had more important questions.

“I'm going to be your Bio-Enhancement operator, so please treat me well.”

“Um… this Bio-Enhancement… well, if it fails, you die… that's like…”

“Hahaha, it's okay! Unless we’re taking ancient times, I've never heard of bio-enhancement failing these days.”

“But… when I was trying on the uniform…” Seina's anxiety was not relieved, as bad luck was a daily occurrence.

“Hmm… I understand. If anything happens, I'll take responsibility and look after you for the rest of my life.” Elma said, rubbing her cheek against his, just like when they first met.

“Eh… ha, well… but, if there is anything… I'd be grateful if there wasn't.” Seina said with a wry smile, feeling the ticklish sensation, like a cat playing with him.

“Hehe. I've done multiple simulations using the personal data I recently collected from you Seina, so there should be no problem. I've taken into account the bias in Seina's

probabilities, so trust your big sister♡”

“Yes, I understand.”

“But just to be safe, let's get a medical checkup.”

With a thud, Elma sat down on Seina's lap and began to remove his clothes.

“Looks like you've reached an agreement.”

Seeing Kiriko's somewhat bright expression, Airi spoke these words as soon as she saw her.

“Yes. I'm sorry for causing you concern.”

“Very well. Now, the reason why you’re here is because Tennan-sensei, who was supposed to be in charge of Yamada Seina-kun's bio-enhancement, has been assigned another mission…”

“Cleaning the toilets.” Amane's voice sounded very happy.

“The same goes for Mitoto-sama. If all goes well…”

“Hey… Amane” Kiriko scolded her for her obvious smile.

“Looks like he won't be coming back anytime soon. Hehehehe.”

“Amane… you shouldn’t laugh at other people's misfortune.”

“He got what he deserved. He did something bad and got found out.”

“Bad?”

“He was lurking when we were in the computer room yesterday. The engineer was acting strange, too.”

“Well then?” She looked at Airi for confirmation.

“…Well, that's how it is. So, I was thinking of asking one of you to take charge. What do you think?”

“Even if you say one of us…”

Kiriko hesitated for a moment. That was because it was normal for Kiriko to take care of Seina. However, in Kiriko's mind, she no longer considered Seina to be her younger brother. This embarrassment was also the reason why she couldn't answer right away.

“What? You don't want to do it? Then I'll do it.” Amane quickly crushed Kiriko's sensitive feelings.

“No!”

“Why?”

“What…?! Wh, why…?”

Kiriko was stumped by the question, which had no hidden meaning. Airi, who was watching the exchange, leaned forward happily and said,

“Hmm… I guess there's no other way. I'll do it.”

Airi's expression was that of a dirty old man.

“Absolutely not!”

Kiriko, Amane, and the chief secretary nearby all screamed.

“We’ve got a problem with what happened on the way to the entrance ceremony! If you don't stop this nonsense, you'll be sued!”

“…Hmph!”

Airi looked to the side with a sulky expression and waved her hand to shoo Kiriko and the others away, telling them to get out.

“Excuse me.”

With a bow, Kiriko and Amane started walking, passing through the transfer gate and heading towards the 89th infirmary where Seina was.

“Oh dear, Chairman Airi is a hopeless person.”

“Geez…”

And what Kiriko saw when she pressed the switch on the door to the 89th infirmary was…

“Oh my… that was quick.”

It was Elma trying to pull down Seina's pants while he was shirless.

“…What are you doing, Elma?”

Kiriko said this without changing her expression, but her eyes looked like those of a mother tiger who had found a fox messing with her cub.

“H-health check.”

That was all Elma could say, as she was paralyzed by the power of Kiriko's gaze.

In the 14988th men's restroom, Seiryo was deck-brushing the floor like an enemy of his parents. At that moment, he heard a school announcement in the distance.

“Yamada Seina, GP Academy's first year student, and Bio-Enhancement Officers Amane Kaunaq and Masaki Kiriko, please report to the Adjustment room immediately. I repeat…”

“Hey! Kiriko, Amane, and Elma, stop fooling around over there and get moving!”

“Ah, Airi-sama, please stop yelling right beside me.”

There was a sound like a struggle, and the broadcast was cut off.

“…What?! Amane is in charge?!”

In an instant, an 18+ barrier called delusion was created in Seiryo's head.

~~~~~~

”Seiryo Delusion Theater”

In a room decorated entirely in pink and clearly denoting a love hotel, Seina, wearing a bathrobe, stood in front of Amane, who was lounging on the bed.

“Look, Amane…! This is me after bio-enhancement!”

Seina threw off his bathrobe and proudly revealed his naked body.

“Oh my! That's great, Seina-kun!”

Amane's gaze was focused on one particular feature of Seina's strength.

“Amane-san…!”

Seina dove towards Amane.

“Oh Seina!”

Just like that, the two shadows became one…

Fin

~~~~~~

“Ohhhhhhhhhh!!”

Seiryo shook his head so hard he nearly got a concussion, shattering the delusional barrier he had created.

“I, I won't forgive you! I won't forgive you!”

Seiryo went straight to the entrance, pretending to flush the toilet.

“Mitoto-sama, I'm very sorry, but an urgent mission has come in! Therefore, I will be taking my leave now!”

He spoke quickly into the toilet bowl, sounding like he was making an apologetic noise, then ran outside.

…But despite Seiryo's explosive dash, Mitoto easily grabbed him by the neck.

“Oh, Seiryo-chan, we're still in the middle of it.”

It was like the Monkey King in the palm of Buddha's hand.

“You have to scrub it properly, or else I'll feel sorry for the toilet.”

Slowly, Mitoto dragged Seiryo by the collar back into the restroom.

Kiriko and the others walked down the hallway with their heads down and looking embarrassed, while teachers and students chuckled.

“Why did this have to happen to me?”

“It's Elma's fault.”

“I was just trying to give Seina a medical check-up…”

“But why does Elma have to take off Seina's clothes?”

Kiriko couldn't help but raise her voice, attracting even more attention.

“You idiot, you're too loud!”

Amane dragged Kiriko and Elma into the Bio-Enhancement adjustment room.

After passing through the sterilization room and locking the door, she finally felt at ease.

“Ahh, it was so embarrassing. Kiriko just suddenly started yelling.”

“I'm sorry… but…” As she said this, Kiriko glanced at Elma.

“Now, now, we better start Seina-kun’s bio-enhancement, otherwise Airi-sama will take out her anger on you again.”

“Quit fooling around!”

“Oh dear… What's wrong, Seina?”

As Amane moved away from the two of them as they continued their earlier conversation,

she noticed Seina looking at her quizzically.

“Um… I was going to ask you, why are you both at GP Academy? I think I heard that Amane is a detective…”

“Want to know?”

“Yes… please.”

“Well… it's your fault, yours!” Amane's expression suddenly changed and she pointed at Seina.

“Oh, mine?”

“That's right! Since you were at his house, I assumed you were a relative of Tenchi-kun's or something, but it turned out I was completely wrong. But since you said you wanted to come, I thought it would be okay, and then I was told I was careless and I ended up being forced to be a teacher.”

“…Huh, huh…??”

“I was about to be promoted to first class detective. And now…!!”

Amane gritted her teeth in frustration, and perhaps her excitement had reached its peak, as her body suddenly went limp like a balloon deflating, and she placed both hands on Seina's shoulders as if to lean on them.

“That was careless of Amane.”

“Oh yeah.”

Kiriko and Elma, who were supposed to have been arguing on the other side of the room, both stood next to Amane and tsked at her.

“Ugh… Oh well. I'll take all this anger and frustration out on you.”

“Maybe that's just taking out your anger on someone else…”

Amane's hands, placed on Seina's shoulders as she slowly tried to escape, dug into him like the claws of a bird of prey gripping its prey.

“Let's get on with the Bio-Enhancement. The fun starts after that.”

“Y-yes?”

“Okay then, hurry up and take off your clothes.”

With that, Amane naturally began to unzip Seina's jacket.

“Hey, what are you doing?” Kiriko, flushed, stepped in between Amane and Seina.

“What?… As you can see.”

“As you can see…” Kiriko was taken aback by Amane's nonchalant response.

“…What are you and Elma thinking?”

“You can't do bio-enhancement unless you're naked.”

“You can't get a medical checkup unless you're naked.”

“Well, that's true, but…”

Overwhelmed by the two of them, Kiriko remained unaware of the real problem.

“Then move away.”

“N-No!”

“If you insist, I don't mind Kiriko taking off your clothes.”

“Eh?! No, that's…”

Kiriko's face flushed bright red as she looked down, but her mouth looked delighted.

“Well, I guess I have no choice… Then, Elma, please.”

“Happily♡”

“That's no good either!”

“Geez… I can't do it, you can't do it, and Elma can't do it either, so we can't move forward, right?”

“Because…”

“Okay, then let's let the person involved decide.” She pushed Kiriko aside and looked at Seina with a grin.

“So now you have two choices. Who do you want to undress you, me or Elma?”

“That's not a choice!”

“Kiriko doesn't like it. So you have two choices!”

“Yes, yes.” Elma nodded happily as she too held Kiriko down.

“So, Seina, which one do you want?”

“Um… I'll do it off myself.”

Seina, who had been staring blankly at the trio’s comedy routine, voiced the final choice that Amane and the others had been deliberately trying to conceal.

“Tsk.”

Amane and Elma clicked their tongues in disappointment.

“Not tsk! Come on, get ready.”

Kiriko grabbed Amane and Elma by the collar and dragged them to the operator's seat.

“Hey, have you heard? Seina’s bio-enhancement supervisor has been changed from Seiryo to Amane-sensei and Masaki-sensei.”

In the student lounge of the container school building, dozens of classmates had gathered around Kenneth.

“So, right now, Seina is in front of Amane-sensei and Masaki-sensei…”

“Well, I'd be happy if it was the other way around, but…”

Kenneth frowned, taken aback by Elroy's words.

“Hmph! I don't mind being seen as long as I can be with Masaki-sensei! Masaki-sensei, look at me!”

“The real issue is what happens after that! Hey Kenneth, does Seina know anyone around here?”

Fingu kicked Elroy away and approached Kenneth.

“Seina's family is from Earth.”

He glanced at Rajau, who then began to explain further.

“Since Earth is still in the early stages of civilization, he normally wouldn't be able to go into space. However, he’s the only one who's been allowed to stay here as an exception… so it's unlikely that he'll return to Earth temporarily, or that his family will come here.”

“Well then, no way!?”

Elroy's words caused a wave of excitement to spread among their classmates.

“Seina is in the first stage, so it would be reasonable to assume that the person in charge would be conducting daily training.”

“The reason we were called by the dorm officer this morning was because of that… We were told that Seina won't be returning to the dorms for a while.”

“So, it must be either Amane-sensei or Masaki-sensei!”

“But wait, in this case, Masaki-sensei is more likely to be the answer than Amane-sensei. After all, they’ve known each other for a long time.”

The audience, which had suddenly swelled in numbers, began to engage in the same huge debate as the day Seina arrived.

Meanwhile, Kenneth and Rajau remained calm, exchanging glances and smiling knowingly.

(… Suspicious)

David stared at the two of them.

In a cylindrical adjustment tank in a sterile room, Seina was completely naked and squirming in embarrassment, hiding his crotch.

“Yamada Seina, stop your pointless resistance and move your hands♡” Amane looked at Seina with interest, as if talking to a criminal.

“Once it starts, it'll all be visible anyway♡”

“If you're going to interfere, get out!” Kiriko glared at Amane and Elma with a ferocious expression.

“I was just trying to ease Seina's tension.”

“That's right.”

“If you get fired for sexual harassment, it won't just be a Class 1 criminal offense. In Elma’s case, who knows what Airi-sama will do to Elma…”

Upon hearing Kiriko's words, the two hurried over to the monitor and began performing final checks.

“What on earth are you thinking? Hey, Seina. I'm going to start the Bio-Enhancement now, so relax. It will be over when you wake up.” Kiriko spoke gently and soothingly to Seina and sat down in her seat.

“Are you ready?”

“Final check showed no abnormalities, all green.”

In response to Amane's words, Kiriko quickly operated the panel.

“Got it. Bio-Enhancement plan loading.”

And as if in response, the sterile room became brighter and a low, rumbling sound began to emanate throughout the room.

“Nano anchor operation confirmed. Adjustment subject's body secured in place.”

(!!)

Seina's body lost all sense of gravity and he felt like he was floating.

“Beginning hypnotic induction.”

Suddenly, Seina felt an intense sense of sleepiness and began to doze off.

“Hypnotic induction confirmed. Decreased level of consciousness. 80, 70, 55, 40…”

“Starting injection of adjustment solution.”

The next moment, Seina completely lost consciousness, the tank filled with a transparent liquid of nanomachines, and he began to sway slowly, like algae in an aquarium.

“Woah!”

Seiryo was cleaning the 14922nd men's restroom with great vigor. In the end, he couldn't escape from Mitoto, so he concluded that the quickest way to do it was to just finish it.

“Wait for meeeeee! Yamada Seina!”

“You're doing your best, Seiryo-chan. This is the last one, you know.”

“Yeeeessss!”

Hearing Mitoto's words, Seiryo's speed doubled.

“Haha, haha, hahahahahahahaaaaa!!”

Chapter Seven: New Residence

When Seina regained consciousness, the first thing he saw was a pure white ceiling.

(…Did I get hurt again?)

In Seina's life, the only white ceilings he had ever seen were related to hospitals. Just as he was thinking this, someone came into his field of vision.

The face peering at Seina was slightly backlit, making it difficult to clearly see who it was, but he could still make out her extraordinary beauty.

(…Goddess? Is this heaven?…But this feeling…I've felt this way before somewhere…)

“Are you awake?”

The voice instantly woke Seina up.

“! … Amane!”

“Call me sensei.”

Upon hearing the word sensei, Seina reflexively raised his upper body.

“S-Sorry. I was sleeping!”

“Huh? … Ugh, kyaaa hahahaha”

Amane began laughing with a boisterousness that was out of keeping with her appearance.

“Heh heh heh. This isn’t a classroom, Seina-kun.”

“Eh? … I see… I, Bio-Enhancement… Huh?”

Seina looked around and realized this was not the Bio-Enhancement lab.

“… Where am I?”

It was a spherical room with a floor and ceiling made of hexagonal blocks, and Seina realized from the feel of his hands and his buttocks that the floor was made of a springy, soft material.

“You’re done with Bio-Enhancement, so I moved you. How do you feel?”

“Haa… I see, nothing seems to have changed, but…”

He was wearing a tight fitting body suit.

He stood up and tried moving his arms and legs, but nothing seemed to have changed. However, Seina noticed something a little more important than his body.

“Ah!”

“Hey, what's wrong? Does anything hurt?” Amane approached Seina, worried about him when he cried out.

“It's not that it hurts or that there's anything wrong with me… Just…”

“Just?”

“Um… who put these clothes…?” He glanced sideways at Amane.

“Pfft! … Hahahaha.”

“No, it's fine. I don't mind.”

Suddenly feeling embarrassed, Seina quickly tried to distance himself from Amane, but Amane followed him and leaned on him, resting her elbow on his shoulder.

“Hmmmm. Hey, who would you be happy to have as your partner?”

“…But even so, Bio-Enhancement was surprisingly easy to do wasn’t it. Kiriko-san… Masaki-sensei said, you wake up and it’s already done… hahahaha.” Seina looked away from Amane and changed the subject.

“Yes, but this is just the first stage of Bio-enhancement. The fun part… no, the hard part is yet to come.”

He was quite surprised, but Amane backed down easily and quickly moved away.

“?”

Amane backed down so easily that it acutally made Seina feel uncomfortable. But even so, if he said something wrong, there was a high possibility that things would get out of hand.

(Well, okay. I'll keep quiet.)

While Seina was thinking about this, Amane manipulated the bracelet on her wrist.

“Well, just walk a bit.” As she said this, she distanced himself further from Seina.

“Hmm? Ah, yes.”

Just as Amane had said, he took a small step forward.

“Whooooa?!”

Seina's body shot diagonally upward as if propelled by a spring.

He wasn't exerting any force, he just tryied to walk as usual, yet he leapt as if he were doing the long jump.

“Whoa!?”

Seina leapt forward, and as he landed, he instinctively put his foot forward to brace himself and stop his momentum. However, because his body was leaning forward, he shot straight up. He spun around and nearly hit the floor, but when he put his hand out to cushion the impact, he ended up jumping diagonally forward.

“Woah woah woah!”

Seina's body bounced around the room like a bouncing super ball.

“Yup.”

Amane easily caught Seina's flying body. However, his arms and legs continued flailing. It was similar to when you lifted up a spring-loaded toy and the moving parts suddenly started moving faster after losing the load of their own weight.

“Now, take a deep breath and relax.”

“Y-Yes.”

With each deep breath, Seina's movements gradually calmed down.

“The room is covered in shock absorbing material, so you won’t be hurt, right?”

“Y-yes… but what's going on?”

“Can you stand up?”

Amane didn't answer Seina's question, but instead supported his sides with both hands and slowly helped him to stand up, as if she was helping a baby to stand.

However, the act of standing naturally uses muscles. The moment he put weight on his legs and exerted force to support them,

“Whoa!”

Seina started bouncing around the room again.

“Noooo!!”

“Ahhhhahahaha!”

Amane watched with laughter as Seina bounced around in all sorts of strange poses.

“Stop laughing and help me!”

“…It can't help it, I guess I'll give you a break.”

Amane flicked the bracelet and Seina tumbled to the floor like a deflated balloon.

“I've put some stress on the suit. It should work normally now.”

“What did you do to this outfit?!” Seina cried as he lay there.

“Don't make such a scary face. I told you I put a load on your suit. Just a moment ago, I reduced that load to zero.”

“Load… Zero?”

“Try standing up. You'll be fine this time.”

“… Really?”

Seina looked at Amane suspiciously, but then sensing that there was no malice in her expression he slowly, as if to confirm, tensed his abdominal muscles and raised his torso.

Feeling the same as always, Seina stood up in one go.

“How is it? What is your impression after Bio-Enhancement?”

“Huh!?”

Seina looked at his body in surprise, but there was no change in the appearance of his body. However, his jumping around earlier was not a dream.

“Your muscle strength has increased several times since before, so even walking made you jump around like you did before.”

“… Amazing.”

Remembering the sensation he had felt earlier, Seina looked at his own body… but…

“Ah… but I can't control that.” Seina looked at Amane with a worried expression.

“I told you, the hard part is yet to come.”

“Haa… I guess nothing is ever that simple.”

“Hehe, my training is tough! Can you keep up?” Amane smiled reassuringly at Seina.

“I'll do my best!” Seina answered, standing still.

“Very well. By the way, Seina…”

“Yes.”

“Do you like me?”

“… Huh?”

At that moment, Seiryo was wiping the floor in a daze.

“Why… Why am I here…”

This was because the atmosphere there was clearly different from the GP Academy toilets where Seiryo had been earlier.

(… They both smell the same though…)

Seiryo slowly looked around.

A dimly lit room… or rather, a place that perfectly resembled the bridge of a ship. Rough-

looking men surrounded a stern-faced man who looked like a pirate captain, surrounded by women, sitting back arrogantly with his legs spread wide.

“Hmm… I see. This is a pirate ship bridge set.”

He tried to somehow convince himself, interpreting the unacceptable situation in his own way.

“So this is the new curriculum for GP Academy. Hahahaha.”

In short, it was an escape from reality.

“Bro, it's time you faced reality.”

The pirate-like man shurled the bottle of sake he was drinking from at Seiryo.

Gon.

The bottle hit Seiryo square on the head, yet he stood perfectly still, not even flinching.

“Cleaning, cleaning, la-la-la!”

Mitoto passed right in front of Seiryo, oblivious to the abnormal situation, mopping the floor as she went.

“It’s just my imagination, it’s just my imagination!”

Seiryo quickly looked away from Mitoto.

Recognizing Mitoto meant admitting that being here was real.

“Cleaning, cleaning, la-la-la!”

He frantically looked away.

“Cleaning, cleaning, la-la-la!”

He frantically looked away.

“Cleaning, cleaning, la-la-la!”

He frantically looked away.

But Seiryo, who had been so preoccupied with looking away from Mitoto, suddenly realized that he could no longer feel her presence.

“… Phew… Thank goodness.”

“What was so good about that, you idiot?” Muttered the head pirate with an exasperated look on his face.

“What do you mean, idiot? You pirates have no right to call me an you idiot!”

Looking back, Seiryo noticed that the inside of the bridge, which had been dull and smelly until a moment ago, was now sparkling brightly.

“Oh!”

The before and after was astonishing. What's more, the scruffy pirates were now neat and clean.

“Is this really the time to be impressed? Seriously, you're so hesitant… You're an idiot who got caught up with Mitoto-san, and then you end up escaping reality because you don't want to admit it, and then you get left behind.”

“Hahaha! That was quite a confident performance. As expected from my GP…”

Everyone there shook their heads at Seiryo, who still couldn't accept the reality.

“… Isn't this the GP?”

In response to Seiryo's question, everyone shook their heads.

“……”

Seiryo slowly looked around… but…

—Not there.

Mitoto was nowhere to be found.

The bridge. Behind chairs, behind panels, all sorts of places where people could hide.

—Not there —Not there.

In trash cans, ceilings, speaking tubes, all kinds of places where no one could hide.

—Not there —Not there —Not there —Not there —Not there.

After running around the ship, all he learned was that the entire ship had been thoroughly cleaned, and that laundry had also been done.

—She's not here…

However, Mitoto had disappeared without a trace.

“…That's… Just not possible…”

“It’s real, it’s real.”

The gaudy woman leaning on the pirate captain’s head… No, thanks to Mitoto, she now wore natural makeup and was quite charming… Chuckled as she said.

“Mitoto-san has been very kind to me. So even if you are 'The Demon Princess of Jurai', I will take you safely to a station or planet with regular transport.”

“I, I see… Huh, hehe, hahahaha. I am of somewhat noble birth. Well, I don't mean to ask for demanding, but my meals and sleeping arrangements have to be first class.” Seiryo said laughing loudly. He either quickly recovered or still hadn’t fully comprehended the situation.

“That’s fine. It'll be a bit pricey, though.”

“Hahaha! Don't worry, I've got it right here…”

Saying this confidently, Seiryo reached into his pocket to pull something out.

“However, you can't use loans or credit cards, you know.”

“Wh… what?”

Peeking out from Seiryo's pocket was a crystal card with no limit, the hallmark of a celebrity.

“If you have money, you're a customer. If not…”

“And if not?”

Seiryo turned towards the pirate captian while fumbling frantically through his pockets.

“There it is! And it's a high-value coin!”

Seiryo recognized the familiar feel of the coin and pulled it out, but the moment he looked at his open hand, he froze.

The woman peered curiously into Seiryo's hand and noticed the words “Children's Bank” written on the coin. It was a coin for a game that Seiryo had picked up while cleaning.

“…And if not?”

“You must work hard.” Saying this, the woman quickly left Seiryo.

A hole appeared silently beneath Seiryo's feet.

“No way!!!” Seiryo screamed and disappeared into a deep hole.

Seina was following behind Amane as she walked briskly down the underground passage used by teachers after school.

“Um, um, Amane-sensei. What do you mean?”

“As I said before. You will be living with me for a while to train after your bio-enhancement. If you're going to be with someone, it's better to be with someone you like than someone you hate, right?”

“So why Amane-sensei?”

Amane stopped in her tracks. She turned and looked at Seina over her shoulder.

“…You don't want to?” With a blank look on her face, she brought her face closer to Seina.

“!”

It was a shocking scene that took his breath away. Amane's expressionless face had a tremendous impact in terms of its beauty, as it was devoid of any warm, empathetic emotion. And no matter how familiar she was, being that close to Amane's face was still shocking.

“Um… I don't mind, but…”

“Well then, why not?”

In the end, Seina was unable to express his opinion to Amane face to face, so he just nodded slightly.

“Well, It has already been decided, so there's no point in saying no.” She stuck out her tongue and started walking again.

“Is it decided?”

“Your roommates should have been notified this morning.”

“Oh… Now that I think about it, Kenneth and Rajau were leaving this morning…”

He remembered the two of them being called by the dorm supervisor.

(I guess it can't be helped if it's the school's decision… but I heard that Amane-sensei works for a very famous clothing brand called Kaunaq, so naturally there must be a lot of servants at home.)

Thinking about it that way made me feel better.

(That's right. Of course, the school would never allow a teacher and a student under one roof. I don't want things to get awkward again after Kiriko-san and I are back together again. ……)

“By the way, how many people are there in your house?”

“Hmm? I'm alone.”

“Huh?” Seina suddenly stopped dead in his tracks.

“There was a nice new apartment near the GP Academy, so I bought it.”

(Apartment?)

In Seina's impoverished image, the definition of an apartment was a place with two rooms six-tatami mats in size. **(TN: About 210 ft. sq.)**

“Wait a minute! So it's just me and the teacher?”

“Hmm?”

Amane turned around and looked at Seina in surprise. Then, with a slightly mischevious look on her face,

“Maybe that will happen.”

“That's not a good idea!” When Seina raised his voice,

“What’s wrong?”

Kiriko called out as she came out from a side hall.

“Eh? Kiriko-san!”

“Please call me sensei here.” Kiriko said smugly.

“Y-Yes.”

“You're sweating profusely. Is there something wrong with you?”

“No, I was just having a little too much fun. My body is fine.”

Amane stepped in between Seina and Kiriko, then whispered, “Just so you know, don't tell the others that I'm living with you.”

“……”

Since he couldn't overturn the school's decision, Seina decided he had no choice but to get away with deceiving Kiriko.

“Are you sure?”

“I'm… okay. My body just got a bit shocked.”

“I know, it's dramatic.” Perhaps remembering her own experience, she closed her eyes and nodded with deep emotion.

“More importantly, Kiriko, you still have work to do, right?”

Amane realized that if the conversation continued for too long, Seina would not be able to keep up the tension, so she came to his rescue.

“Oh no. I can't. Well then, I'll leave the rest to you.”

With that, Kiriko jogged off.

“Okay! Let's go this way too♡”

Amane started walking, dragging Seina along as he saw Kiriko off with some regrets.

(What were those Academy people thinking…? Ah!)

At that moment, Seina remembered that the Academy's president was Airi.

Looking exhausted, Raireza returned to her room, took off her shoes, threw them aside, and sat back in a chair.

“Maybe I should take a shower.”

She reached over and turn on her computer, checking for any personal messages.

As a huge number of emails and memos scrolled by, only the most important items were automatically picked out, and new windows opened one after another. Looking at them, she took off her clothes and throw them on the chair.

Wearing only swimsuit-like underwear, Raireza entered a shower capsule in the corner of the room. The transparent cylinder was instantly filled with liquid nanomachines, and Raireza's skin began to pulsate and quiver.

While taking a shower, she watched her emails being organized and processed one by one from the capsule.

“Well, I'll take a little nap…”

After finishing her shower and reading her emails, Raireza sat cross-legged on a chair still wearing her underwear.

“…Right, I wonder what happened to NB.” She muttered as she called out the programmed dog that she had attached to the screen. However…

“……”

Before her was a CG dog wearing a collar she had never seen before and wagging its tail so hard it looked like it might break, in front of a doghouse with a nameplate that read “Beau Jolie.”

“Wh-what… happened?”

Stunned, Raireza noticed a flower bed beyond the doghouse.

When she unfolded the screen, she saw a small house and a forest behind it, and heard birds chirping.

“It looks like high-resolution CG for an AI…huh?”

There was a mailbox in front of the fence, with the name of the house's resident written on it.

“…Yamada? Yamada Seina?…I wonder if it's a trap.”

Raireza hesitated for a moment, then cautiously pressed the doorbell.

“Yes, who is it?”

(Hmm? That voice sounds familiar.)

“Y-You're…”
It was 'Kirushe,' the young wife-like idol, and she was wearing an apron.
“Hello, may I help you?”
Her smile was brighter than what she showed every morning on TV.

Just as she thought that, the person who opened the door and came out was…

“Y-You…”

There was the AI idol, “Kirche”, wearing an apron and looking like a young wife.

“Hello, how can I help you?”

It was brighter than the smile seen on TV every morning.

Amane's air car was parked at the dormitory's supply entrance to prevent students from causing trouble.

“Thank you, sorry for bothering you…” Seina said as he received his luggage from Kenneth and Rajau and put it in the trunk.

“Don’t worry about it!”

“That's right. It would be a big problem if Seina-kun showed up at the dorm. But more importantly…”

Kenneth and Rajau approached Amane, who was leaning against the air car and watching the situation with a smile.

“Um, Amane-sensei… it's about Seina.”

“We talked about it. We're teammates, after all…”

“And?” Amane answered with a puzzled look on her face.

“…So, since Seina has only just started wearing a diaper, we have to go with him and take care of him.”

“That's right. I'm sure you're a busy person, Amane-sensei…”

The two of them clung to the idea and made a strong plea.

(Oh dear.)

Seina, who had been watching from a short distance away, realized what Kenneth and Rajau were trying to say and closed his eyes and sighed.

“Hey, Seina. Wouldn't that be easier for you?”

“We're teammates, after all.”

When they realized that it would be difficult to appeal to Amane directly, they changed tactics and looked at Seina with big smiles.

“Eh? Well, I guess… but”

Seina had few friends. It was hard to refuse, but if they came along, it would be obvious that he was alone with Amane.

“Don't be shy.”

“Yeah, we're friends.”

“Are you two really that worried about Seina? You really care about your friends.”

As Amane said this, she motioned with her hand out of sight of Kenneth and Rajau for Seina to get in the car.

“Yes, that's right! So please let us come along!”

Seeing a chance, Kenneth leaned forward.

“Thank you, but you guys have your own curriculum, right?”

“That was a private lesson with the teacher…”

But Amane lightly dodged the question.

“I'll just take your kind words. Once Seina returns after completing his bio-adjustment, please take good care of him.”

With a big smile on her face, she opened the door of the air car and got in.

“Oh, it’s getting late…”

“Well, see you in class.”

The air car silently floated up, moved sideways, and away from Kenneth and Rajau, then sped off at an incredible speed.

“N-No way!”

David and the others appeared from behind Kenneth and Rajau, who were standing there in a daze.

“Hehehe… I thought something like this would happen.” David said triumphantly in his usual low-key voice.

“Y-you guys!”

“You thought I didn't notice…”

Fingu pushed aside David as he began to speak and approached Kenneth and Rajau.

“Kenneth, that's not fair! You were trying to get ahead of me! And you were talking to Amane so close by.”

Fingu, an Amane fan, had an angry look on his face.

“Well, that's just how Kenneth and Rajau think.”

On the other hand, Elroy remained calm when he found out that Kiriko was not the officer in charge.

“I, I saw through it!”

David, who had been deprived of his moment, yelled weakly from behind the wall of the two of them, but then he suddenly became quiet.

“Maybe I should remove the tracker…” he muttered.

“Okay! David, say it!”

“Yes, your brilliant plan.”

Elroy and Fingu stood behind David, like Sukesan and Kakusan from the manga series Mito Komon. **(TN: Manga Mito Kōmon (まんが水戸黄門) (1981-1982), an anime loosely based on the drama Mito Kōmon (戸黄門) (1969-2011). The Shogun travels Japan in disguise accompanied by two bodyguards, Sukesan and Kakusan. They solve odd mysteries and wrongdoings by local personalities. Mito Kōmon (戸黄門) is listed as one of the sources of the Evil Echigoya trope in Japanese period dramas.)**

“…plan?”

"Right. Without the school's permission, I couldn't go with Seina-kun. But, if I knew where he went, I could go visit him… as a friend."

“I see!”

David looked at Kenneth and Rajau in amazement.

“Okay then, let's track them down!”

“Yeah. Got it.”

David activated one of the monitors from his bracelet.

“The tracker I installed on Amane's car is a military one that I got.” David said proudly.

His hands suddenly stopped moving.

“Huh?”

“Hey, what's going on?”

“What, what, what?”

“What do you see?”

Everyone waited for David to speak with a bad feeling.

“…There's no reaction.”

David was shaking and in tears.

“…Well, I thought that would be the case.”

“It's an ultra-luxury car owned by the Kaunaq family, so the guard must be top-notch.”

The circle of boys that had been formed around David quickly moved away and formed elsewhere.

“This isn't going to be easy, so let's gather information and do our best to find out where Seina is headed.”

“Let's meet regularly to exchange information so that nothing is hidden or slips through the cracks.”

“Okay then. Hehehe… Seina, you're being naive thinking you'll be the only one having a good time. Fuhahahaha~~~”

Like an evil organization, everyone began laughing darkly and foolishly.

“Heyyyy! You're in the way of the loading zone. Get out when you're done!”

Kenneth and the others panicked and ran away after hearing the dorm supervisor's angry shout.

Amane's air car passed through the back gate of the Academy dormitory and drove through a long tunnel.

“There are fifty trackers… those two are really good friends. If they really meant what they said, they're really good kids."

“I thought so… You figured it out.”

“Haha, of course. I was a detective after all. Though, with that obvious expression on his face, anyone could tell."

As they exited the tunnel, they found themselves on a dazzling coastal road. Amane quickly put on her sunglasses, next to Seina, who was wincing from the glare.

“…But I'm the same as Kenneth and the others… I don't know what's going to happen.”

Amane looked at Seina, who was complaining with a sullen look on his face, with a penetrating gaze from the side of her sunglasses.

“If you can do it, go ahead and do it. If you can do something, that’s great.”

“……”

Being treated like a child, Seina was at a loss for words and looked away. He blushed and bit his lip. But Amane wasn't treating Seina like a child. On the contrary, Amane felt that Seina's rationality was much higher than that of other people.

“Right after Bio-Enhancement, you don't need to do anything special. Daily life itself is the best training. It would be good if you had a family, but that's not possible in your case, Seina-kun. So it's best to be with your instructor.”

“For everyday life, wouldn't a dormitory be okay?”

“Are you going to make your roommates take care of you? That'll just be a nuisance with you in a diaper.”

“Diaper?”

Amane's hand tapped Seina's suit.

“This. You can't even walk properly. You're like a baby that requires a lot of care. You really need to get good enough to attack me."

Feeling mocked, Seina gave Amane a disgruntled look.

“… Ah, Amane-sensei, you were complaining that I was the reason you missed out on becoming a first-class detective. So… why…?”

“I've seen you looking so cool bouncing around in a diaper, and that's enough. Plus, things are about to get interesting…”

Amane's eyes, visible through her sunglasses, were smiling brightly…but then her expression suddenly becomes stern.

“Plus, it keeps the bugs away.”

“Huh?”

Seina noticed Amane's gaze fixed on the rearview mirror and slowly turned around.

Seiryo was in an air car that picked up speed and was racing alongside Amane's air car.

“Tennan-sensei?!”

“Hey Amane. It's been a while.”

Amane has a blank look on her face and continued to stare straight ahead, ignoring Seiryo.

“I'm sorry for making you feel lonely. Well, I've been busy with a lot of things. I just got back from a top-secret mission with Mitoto, hahaha. Well, it was a big adventure that could even be made into a movie, but I didn't want Amane to feel lonely, so I came back quickly.”

(It's probably just an exaggerated, self-praising rumor anyway.)

The veins in Amane's hands bulged as she gripped the steering wheel.

When Seiryo was captured by pirates, he was saved by the Crystal Card he had.

The Crystal Card held by a VIP also had the ability to pinpoint their location, which allowed them to be taken into custody by the Tennan family's private army, who happened to be sailing nearby. He was then transported back to the Academy by a super-long-distance transporter for executives at a large station owned by the Tennan family nearby.

“…… Oh? Look who's here…… Oh, yeah. I remember you. It was Yamada Seina-kun, who was very enthusiastic and spent a lot of time on the basic training menu, wasn’t it?”

As if he had just realized this, Seiryo gave Seina a sarcastic laugh.

“Is it okay for you to ride something like that? You'll never be out of diapers unless you start by training how to walk. Right, Amane?”

“Oh, by the way, Seina-kun, we're having a welcoming party for you today, do you want anything to eat?”

Amane spoke to Seina so that Seiryo could hear.

“I'm your supervisor, so I'll take good care of you.”

“… I-I knew it!”

Seiryo became extremely upset and leaned out of his air car.

“No, Amane! I will never allow you to live with such a primitive person!”

“…Hey, Seina. We’ll be living together for a while, so we need to get to know each other.”

Amane had veins of anger bulging in her temples, but she still maintained a cheerful expression and spoke to Seina in a sweet voice.

“Hey hey hey, Yamada Seina! You're a despicable person who abuses your position as a student and forces a female teacher to give you private lessons!”

Seiryo became furious, took his hands off the wheel, and leaned forward as if to grab Seina.

“No, I’m not.”

“I swear on the pride of Tennan Seiryo that I will never allow my Amane to be sullied by someone like you!”

“M- my Amane?”

“Hey, Seina, let's do our best together tonight♡” Suddenly, Amane put an arm around Seina's shoulders.

“Huh!?”

Seiryo was so shocked that his brain froze for a moment.

As the highway ahead made a slight curve, Amane timed the moment, swiftly turning the steering wheel slightly and bringing her air car into contact with Seiryo's air car.

“Waaaaa!”

The next moment, Seiryo's air car flew over the guardrail and fell into the sea.

Amane was smiling broadly with triumph as a huge splash of water rose behind her air car.

“Tennan-sensei!!”

“Hey, that's dangerous! Sit down.”

As Seina tried to stand up and look back, Amane grabbed him by the back of his collar and forced him to sit down, then parked the air car on the side of the road.

“Please report the accident to GP and instruct them to investigate.”

Amane held Seina's shoulders to prevent him from standing up and began to contact GP to report the accident.

"Sending vehicle, Amane Kaunaq, confirming the situation. The other vehicle was determined to be driving recklessly. Pursuant to the Tennen exception, the sending vehicle was not at fault."

A synthesized voice quickly replied, and Amane winked at Seina.

“Got it. End of transmission… It's okay. It's a normal thing.”

“N-normal…”

“They said it was an exception to the Tennen rule, right? Honestly, there's no need to report him, but… Well, I can't just let the accident go unnoticed in front of the students.”

"You just passed him by… I think the teacher caused it."

"It's that idiot's fault for driving alongside me and being so reckless! And that's what the GP thought, right?"

“Haa…”

Seina doesn't know what the Tennan exception meant, but it seemed to have some complicated history behind it, so he decided not to pry any further.

“But… is it okay?”

“What’s that?”

Seina looked at Amane, a little hesitant to say anything.

“It's about living together… well, my Amane, that is… Tennan-sensei and Amane…”

Amane, sensing what Seina meant to ask, furrowed her brow, grabbed Seina's head with the hand on his shoulder, and pulled him roughly toward her with a jerk.

“If you take the lies of that idiot stalker seriously, you’ll become an idiot. Don’t ever mention that idiot in front of me again.”

“R-right.”

From Amane's facial expression and tone of voice, he was able to understand the general relationship between the two of them.

“Very well… Oh, that's right. Your room isn't that big. Is that okay?”

She nodded in satisfaction at Seina's words, and then changed the topic while still keeping his face close to hers. From the sidelines, they looked like a couple talking. In fact, the passengers in the air cars passing by were clearly aware of their presence.

“Oh, not at all… So, do I really have to go?”

“I just moved in, so I don't have everything yet. But I like the bathroom. The view is amazing. It's a little small, but it's perfect for two people.”

“Two people? “

“Yes♡”

With a seductive expression, Amane pulled Seina even closer. She was also happy that she managed to defeat Seiryo, and was in a bit of a bad mood. …But,

“Hello, Seina.”

As Seina's eyes turned red, a close-up shot of Elma's face came into view.

“Whoa!” Seina was so startled that he nearly jumped out of the air car.

“……Elma-san?”

The 3D image of Elma projected between Amane and Seina seemed to grow out of the seat.

“Amane, I’m done here, how about you?”

“It was getting pretty good.” She muttered with a sullen expression.

“What?”

“Nothing. I just got interrupted, but I'll be there soon.”

“Is that so… Understood.”

In the video, Elma turned to face Seina.

“Well then, Seina-kun, see you later.”

She waved her hand and disappeared. As Elma's image disappeared, Seina looked at the area suspiciously and muttered something.

“…I’m done here?…Will you be here soon?…See you later?”

“Would you prefer to be alone with me?”

Seeing Seina's puzzled expression, Amane chuckled with satisfaction.

“What……?”

Without answering Seina's question, Amane started the air car.

Fifteen minutes later, Seina stood there, mouth slack, looking up.

Behind him was a port with dozens of luxury cruisers moored in the blue sea, and dozens of luxury cars parked haphazardly. And in the distance, Seina could see a luxurious multi-storey house carved into the rocky mountain.

It felt more like a luxury resort villa than a normal residence.

“What are you doing? Let's go.”

Amane took off her sunglasses, took Seina's arm and started walking.

“Oh, um… Is this the home of Amane-sensei's parents?”

“You don’t have to use polite language that you’re not used to. I told you, I bought an apartment nearby. It’s a little second home.”

“A second home?! This is it?”

The majestic entrance, which could be mistaken for a cathedral, was made from a huge cave.

The waterfall with its many small steps, the beautiful flowers and plants, and the strands of light coming in from near the ceiling created a fantastical scene.

“Welcome home.”

At the front desk, five men and women dressed in black all bowed respectfully.

“Oh, thank you.”

Seina quickly shook off Amane's arm and returned a deep bow, then noticed the front desk staff member with a troubled smile on his face.

“…What's wrong?”

Just then, Elma got off the elevator and called out to Amane, who was looking at Seina with a grin on her face.

“Nothing.”

“Hmm… I kind of understand.” Elma noticed the slight reaction from Seina and the front desk and instantly understood the situation.

“Come on, Seina, don't stay there forever. Let's get going.”

“Y-Yes…”

Elma walked up to Seina, and in the luxurious entrance, wrapped her arms around Seina, who was unable to move as if he were paralyzed, and pulled him close.

“This is amazing…”

“Didn't you know? Amane is the daughter of Kaunaq.”

“No, I heard a lot about that, but I couldn't really imagine it from Amane-san.”

Seina's image of a rich young lady did not match Amane's words and actions. The image of a wealthy young lady was that of someone who was brought up in a box, carefully nurtured,

out of touch with the world, or high-minded and selfish.

“One of the Galactic Federation's leading luxury clothing brands… Well, to be more specific, it means that this kind of place is convenient for a young lady who can easily buy it with her own pocket money.”

“Ah… I see.” Seina looked around again and nodded in understanding.

“And she was a super famous top model. It’s no big deal.”

“But why would someone like that be in the GP? She doesn't even have to work…”

Moreover, he didn't understand why someone would take on a dangerous job like the GP.

“Yeah… a problem with Dad…”

When Elma whispered that,

“Elma, hurry up!”

Amane, expressionless, raised her voice a little and quickly entered the private elevator at the end of the corridor.

With a look of regret on her face, Elma stuck out her tongue and shrugged.

“……?”

“Well, there are a lot of things.”

As Seina looked at her curiously, Elma whispered.

(This is also a taboo word, just like Tennan-sensei's.)

As if waiting for the two to finish their conversation, Amane, who had been facing away, turned around and twirled her sunglasses between her fingers.

“Come on, let's go.”

Once Elma and Seina got in, the doors closed and the elevator began to rise silently.

The elevator was not a sealed box, but a shielded plate about the size of a four-and-a-half-tatami room, allowing the view outside to be seen. Passing through trees and carved rock walls, the beautiful ocean gradually spread out below. **(TN: Call it 80 sq. ft.)**

“By the way… why are you here, Elma?”

“Oh, haven't you heard from Amane-san? Airi-sama asked me to check the probabilities of Seina's daily life.”

“So, is Elma-san coming too?”

“Am I interrupting something?”

“N-not at all.”

Just as Seina hastily denied it, the plate came to a silent halt.

“Here we go.”

The door in front of him slid open, and beyond it revealed a modest, geometrically laid out European-style garden.

“Welcome home.”

Amane took a few steps forward, then turned and smiled brightly.

Urged by Elma, Seina slowly began to walk through the garden and looked around. No matter where he looked, he couldn't see the mountainside, which was probably because he was at the top of the mountain.

In front of him stood a white, two-story Mediterranean-style house.

Walking into the small miniature garden, perhaps about the size of a 25-meter swimming pool, he came across a beautiful wisteria trellis and a large wooden door that opened like a folding door.

(It's a great house, but it doesn't have the same impact as the entrance.)

But as he stepped inside and continued on, Seina looked around in surprise.

Beyond the three-story atrium indoor garden was a spacious living room, also three stories high. The floor-to-ceiling glass, greenhouse-like windows offered a view of a vast garden that was incomparable to the one in front of the entrance.

The view from the front door was just the tip of the iceberg, a mere fraction of what had to offer.

(……amazing……)

Seina had seen some of the more incredible private homes in Seto's Mikagami, but staying there and living in one were completely different things, especially since he was just getting used to his cramped dorm room.

“I'll give you a detailed explanation of the rooms later, but let's go to Seina's room first.”

Amane and Elma led him up the stairs from the living room to Seina's room, one floor above.

Seina stared blankly into the empty, vacant space.

“How is it? Do you like it?”

“Hmm… Amane, didn't you say that it wasn't that spacious?”

“It's not a big deal, right? I think that's because there's no furniture or anything.”

“Apart from the height of the ceiling… in terms of size alone, my whole house could fit in there…” Seina looked at the space, which looked like it could fit a basketball court, and murmured with a sigh.

When he looked up to take another look at the room, he saw a 20-meter cruiser slowly and noiselessly descending through the trees that he could see from his window.

“Oh no. Is it that time already? Come on, we can relax later.”

Amane took Seina's hand and led him through the door leading outside and up the stairs to the shuttleport on the top floor.

“…Wow…”

Seina let out a sigh of amazement as he watched the cruiser slowly descend.

There is something strangely impactful about seeing an object the size of a long-distance bus flying slowly over familiar everyday scenes such as houses and trees. On the other hand, huge objects somehow lack a sense of reality.

“But who is …… on this?”

“This is the head cruiser of a large ship for outer space travel.”

“A head cruiser was basically a removable bridge.”

In response to Seina's questions, Amane and Elma took turns giving answers that were like quiz hints.

“And this is privately owned.”

“You can't own one normally.”

“Hey.”

The two of them looked at each other and smiled.

(Does …… mean they're awfully rich?)

There weren't many people he knew who would be interested in something like this. Seina tilted his head to the side, folded his arms, and began to think deeply.

(The shuttle design wasn't Juraian…)

When he thought about it, a bad feeling ran through his body like an electric current.

(…Could it be Airi-san?! I'm sure Elma-san is Airi-san's secretary…and Amane-san's

meaningful smile…)

Seina slowly backed away, preparing to run away.

“Yes, yes, you can't run away, you can't run away”

Amane grabbed Seina by the collar as he tried to escape and pulled him towards her.

“It's not scary, okay?”

Judging by the two of them, it seemed that Seina's answer was correct. Seina desperately tried to get away from Amane, but Amane didn't budge.

(I see, Amane also has Bio-Enhancement.)

Bashu! There was a sound of air escaping, and the thick armored door began to open.

“Whoa!”

Startled by the sound, Seina hid behind Amane and watched what was happening.

“Heh heh.”

Amane and Elma looked on in amusement.

As the door slid open, Seina stepped back. He couldn't help but worry about what she would be wearing and what she might be up to this time.

—Congratulations on your Bio-Enhancement! I'll take care of you step by step, on behalf of your parents on Earth.♡

Having said that, it was not out of the question that Airi would come out in just a naked apron.

(If that were to happen…)

He was seriously trying his best to hold back his tears.

(Minaho-sama is such an idiot! … No, calm down, calm down.)

Telling himself this, Seina checked his escape route. Then, with trembling fingers, he unbuttoned and unzipped the

zipper of his jacket so he could quickly take it off.

(……Not yet!)

The moment the door slid open, Seina took off his jacket and ran away.

“Seina-chan?”

A familiar voice said from behind him.

“Eh!?”

Seina stopped and slowly turned around…

“What's wrong, Seina-chan?”

Kiriko was standing in the entrance to the shuttle.

Next to Kiriko, who looked at Seina curiously, Amane and Elma were looking in amazement at the jacket she was holding in her hands.

“Eh… ah, no… is that Kiriko-san?”

“See!”

Amane roughly threw his jacket back to the upset Seina.

“Next time I have to hold Seina, I think I'll hold his pants.”

“If it were you, Seina-kun, wouldn’t he still run away?”

Elma approached, laughing, and pulled Seina toward Kiriko.

“Run away? What's going on, Seina?”

Kiriko looked at Seina with a worried expression, still reeling from their conversation at the beach.

“Kiriko came on a cruiser like this, so he mistook her for Airi-sama.”

“Airi-sama? Ah, I see.”

On the day of the entrance ceremony, Kiriko, who knew what Airi had done on the way to school, felt relieved to hear Amane's words.

“This is a real problem for Airi-sama.”

“Um, well… Since Kiriko-san came here, does that mean she'll be living here with us?”

“Of course. Even if she's a teacher, there's no way she would allow a young woman to live alone with a student.”

“Y-yes, that's true.”

Seina's expression changed from relief to joy. Elma, who looked dissatisfied, rubbed up against Seina, who couldn't help but smile.

“Seina, you didn’t look so happy when you found out I was with you.”

“Th-that's not it, I don't really…”

“But Elma, Seina thought that he was going to live alone with me, and he got so excited that it was a big problem.” Amane said as she hugged Seina's arm, who looked troubled.

“Oh really? That's not fair. You have to be happy for me too.” Elma made an exaggerated noise.

“Yes… I thought Seina was acting strange. Amane must have been manipulating the information in that way.”

“I understand that very well.”

The three of them looked like close classmates visiting their older sister, and they gave off a certain aura that Seina couldn't fit in with.

Feeling a little left out, Seina was left to his own devices.

“Enough. We have to go shopping soon, it’s getting late.”

Before he knew it, the sun had begun to paint the surrounding sky red.

“Shopping?”

“You’re going to be living here for a while, so you need some personal belongings.”

Kiriko walked away from Seina and pointed to the cruiser. “Then let’s go on this cruiser. We might need to discuss some things along the way, and this ship will ensure secrecy.”

“Yes, it's okay even if we have a lot of baggage.”

Following Kiriko, Elma and Amane boarded the cruiser.

“But thank goodness Kiriko-san was with us … and I wondered what would happen at one point…”

Released from the crush of the three, Seina took a deep breath. But…

(Eh? …Kiriko, Amane, and Elma are living together?)

Seina found himself trapped in a situation where he had no excuses for his friends or the fan club members, and from the outside it made no difference whether there was one young woman or three.

“Oh no, what if Kenneth and the others find out?… But they know about Amane and me.”

…If that was the case, it was only a matter of time before they knew about Kiriko and Elma.

“What are you doing, Seina-chan? Let's go.” Kiriko said gently.

“The daily training after Bio-Enhancement is surprisingly hard work. You'll have to have lots of spare underwear.”

“…… Is that so”

Seina thought he saw a sign at the entrance to the cruiser that said “Danger, do not enter!”

But that wasn't the only disaster for Seina. From the east and north, and from space, trouble was approaching Seina.

—Mikagami living space/World Tree—

A sky full of stars—a dark room.

Mirror Seto—Seto.

—That sounds fun.

“Yes. And you?”

—Yes, I'm looking forward to it.

“It's okay, absolutely.”

—That sounds interesting.

“Fun and giggles”

[Tenchi Muyo! GXP Volume 3/End]

Afterword

Sorry for the wait everyone. Here is the third volume of GXP.

Although the period is shorter than the period between Volume 1 and Volume 2…

“Sorry, I have another job, so please forgive me.”

I feel so much pressure that I even have dreams about this.

Now, from the second volume onwards, I recklessly started writing the main text by myself, but the problem was that due to my lack of experience, after a while… That is, by the time I started writing the next volume, I had completely forgotten how to write in a novel-like style (at least that's what I intended).

When it comes to drawing, even if I don't draw at all for several months, I can quickly get back into the swing of things…

It goes without saying that pictures and words are completely different ways of expression. Even manga, illustrations, and animations, which are both pictures, can be said to have different methods of expression.

Each method of expression has its pros and cons - some are easier to understand in writing, some in manga, and some are quicker with animation. However, novels are my least used form of expression, so I feel like they don't quite hit the spot.

However, even this amount of length for a book would take much more time if I were to try to do it alone using any other medium, so in that sense the novel is an extremely valuable medium.

In this third volume, there is a scene where Seina is walking along the route to the GP Academy entrance ceremony where a flower called Yukigasumi is in full bloom.

The original image is “walking along the rows of cherry blossom trees in full bloom”, but actually, in Okayama, where I was born, cherry blossoms are associated with graduation ceremonies. Of course, even in Okayama, there may be some differences in the timing, so this is only a story based on the conditions around where I lived.

—A feeling of freedom from the cold winter to the warmth of spring.

—After receiving their diplomas, the graduates look up with a sense of liberation.

This sense of freedom is the core of my image of cherry blossoms.

On the other hand, by the time of the entrance ceremony, the cherry blossoms had completely lost their petals, so I was always puzzled by the fact that the news and commercials about school entrance ceremonies that I saw on TV as a child showed cherry blossoms in full bloom.

Even after learning that cherry blossoms bloom at different times in different regions, I still couldn't help but feel a sense of unease.

Nowadays, cherry blossoms have become a place where demons and monsters gather to have a one-night parade under the guise of cherry blossom viewing, and the next day they become a cursed place littered with garbage and filth, which is a great pity. I feel like I want to purify it by drawing circles or painting them over with a brush… I know exactly what game I'm playing, but I feel like I'm no longer feeling a sense of refreshing freedom… Well, if you say it's a bad kind of freedom, then you're right…

Oh, and by the way, I thought of banquets and games, but what they both have in common is getting drunk… I can't handle it anymore… As for a certain game with zombies, even though I love it… I can only last about 30 minutes even when I'm in top physical condition. Moreover, once I get symptoms of motion sickness, I need to wait about a week before I can last even a few minutes or seconds. Of course, beating it is just a dream, and it's a more hopeless adventure than Tripitaka's journey to India. …Ugh, I feel like I'm getting drunk just thinking about it… Well, maybe it's fate telling me to stop playing games and use that time to work.

I've gone completely off topic, but this time, Kiriko has accepted Seina's place in the Academy, Seina has received the same Bio-Enhancement as his classmates, and he and Kiriko have settled on living with Amane and Elma, so for the time being, each character has taken up their position.

Going forward, the novel version of GXP will have the same storyline as the TV version, but I think there will be more original characters and episodes. The four ladies-in-waiting will be involved with Seina in a new way under Seto's orders, and I also plan to write episodes that could not be used in the TV version of GXP due to the three seasons of the OVA Tenchi.

By the way, Ringo-chan, who was nowhere to be seen this time, is currently on an undercover mission to repay Seina for his kindness, so she is expected to play an active role (?) in the next volume. It's not that I forgot or didn't remember.

…But you treat me pretty badly…Ringo-chan. Kiriko is a demon.

Masaki Kajishima